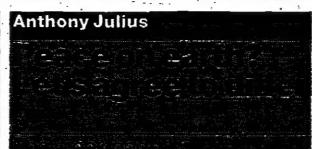
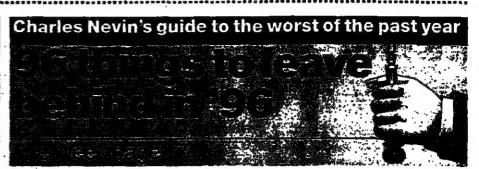
A Mutations

Saturday December 28 1996 lard

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Row over jail 'humiliation'

Searches anger probation officers tronic scanning and a property search. But now they face a long list of body checks

ROBATION officers visiting prisons throughout England and walked out in protest at "humiliating" inti-

The new security measures have provoked a growing confrontation between the Prison Service and the probation of-licers, who say the checks cers, who say the checks re an "outrageous alur" on wir professionalism. Urgent gal advice is being sought as whether the way some of whether the way some of the searches are conducted. are an "outrageous alur" on their professionalism. Urgent legal advice is being sought as the searches are conducted mount to assault.

The new security checks at the 185 prisons in England and Wales include intimate body examinations, removing shoes and socks, and being sniffed by drug-detection dogs. The measures have been brought in following the Learmont and Woodcock in-quiries into prison security. Probation officers have lodged more than 60 formal complaints about the way they are being treated claiming that other official visitors

or probation sam snugging contraband into jail and the "humiliating searches" amounted to an "outrageous slur" on the professional integrity of probation staff.

"We suspect that the real reason is connected with the to prisons such as police and

probation officers visiting probation officers," said Mr ficers may not be required to jails to compile count reports. Fletchar, "At one jail a female undergo the full precedure, or make release arrange—officer was told probation and, if this is the case, their ments were subject to elec- staff were seen as the friend likely to take in contraband. There is absolutely no foun-dation for this view." including examination of their ears, mouth and hair and, if female, inside their

bras, and inside the waist-band of their trousers. The National Association of Probation Officers has ad-vised staff not to submit to "intrusive and degrading" searches and some staff have been threatened with discipline for refusing to comply. Harry Fletcher, Napo assistant general secretary, yester-day said that there had not been any recorded incidents of probation staff amugging

Before the new searching reason is connected with the arrangements were in place Prison Service's attitude to

Most of the complaints have been recorded at Belmarsh prison, south London; High-Down, Surrey, Long Lartin, Worcestershire; Parkhurst, Isle of Wight; and Doncaster, South Yorkshire. In one case, a man was asked to remove his trousers after a medical pin in his leg set off the alarm, and in another a probation officer was told he could not enter unless he

handed over the glucose tab-lets he needed as a disbetic. The scale of the searches is set out in an advice note to probation officers going to Belmarsh prison. It says per-sonal details of the officer are bation Officer may now move on to the Gate."

It says that searches should include: emptying pockets, removing headgear and examining hair, checking inside ears, nose and mouth: checking torso and abdomen; (if female check under breasts) and waistband seat of trousers; checking legs from crotch to ankle and removal

and search of footwear. The note says that if at any time concerns are raised then a more robust search should

A Prison Service spoke man yesterday said: "Our overriding consideration is security of prisons and this includes the searching of everybody who enters one to be logged on to the com-puter and a photograph and a hand impression must be taken. "Female Probation Of-the type of prison.

Case file

lodged by probation staff: . Belmarsh: "Without warning a female prison officer conducted a physical search which included putting her fingers under my bra and inside my leggings. This was done in the main area in front of male solicitors."

Long Lartin: "I was sub-jected to a rub down body earch, which included the officer feeling inside the waistband of my trousers. My shoes were then removed. The soles of my feet felt and the inside of my shoes examined. All in the presence of male

Doncaster: "I told the offi-cer I had an ileostomy. As I realised that the officer was going to touch my

Britons held on mutiny ship

Owen Bowcott

revealed to be among a group of 26 workers cargo ship off the coast of Niinvestigated by the Foreign

of whom are Filipino or French, were seized by crewmen who mutinied over a wages dispute as the French-owned vessel, the WB-82. offshore platforms to nearby tankers.

were attempting to ascertain the truth behind conflicting

Initial reports said that the stand-off had been resolved peacefully and the captives released unharmed. But later accounts last night suggested that the dispute

continuing.

The identity of the two Brit-Foreign Office was unable to

provide their names. The first reports of the inci-dent came from the Philippine department of foreign af-fairs in Manila yesterday. They revealed that the hostage-taking began on Decem-

Manila's consul-general in firmed that around 60 Nige rian crew members were holding 10 Filipinos, nine French, five Indians, two Britons, a Lebanese and a

Nepalese.
Speaking by talephone, Mr
Dorado identified the vessel
as the WB-82, a French-owned
ship which he said had been hired by petrol companies operating in Nigeria to trans-port crude oil.

The vessel was understood to be lying about 30 miles off the south-east Nigerian town

of Eket.
"This is purely a labour dis-pute," Mr Dorado added. The turn to page 3, column 3

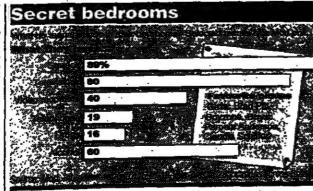
Drink, drug and sex secrets Tory's part-time MPs of teenagers' bedrooms

Vivek Chaudhary and Andrew Culf

ARENTS used to worry about their teenage children going out at night and failing prey to drink, drugs and sex. But now they can get all that at home. According to a BBC Radio

I survey, teenagers are liv-ing a hedonistic life of sex and drugs and rock'n'roll and most of it is taking place in their bedrooms, right under their parents' The results of Secret Bed-

rooms, to be broadcast tomorrow night, shows that one in six aged be-tween 15 to 19 have kept drugs in their bedrooms and 60 per cent use their bedrooms to store alcohol. Sixty-two per cent admitted having regular sex and almost three-quarters of those said they did it in their bedrooms. Items listed as having been kept hours watching television



under the bed included used condoms, dead gold-fish, vomit, "my girl-friend's knickers" andcouldy pot noodles. Nearly 90 per cent had stereos in their rooms, 80 per cent televisions, 40 per cent video recorders and 19

per cent telephones. On average, seven hours a week was spent listening to music and five-and-a-half

in the bedroom - more time than was spent on

Three-quarters pinned

posters to the walls. Pamela Anderson and Claudia Schiffer were favourites

doing homework.

among the boys, Brad Pitt and Boyzone among the girls. Just over 400 teenager took part in the survey car-ried out by Mori in 28 locations around Britain.

claim disgusts Labour

yesterday staged a daring kidnap Traid on one of the great figures of Tory mythology when it accused the Asia supermarket chief, Archie Norman, of provoking the

wrath of "Disgusted of Tun-bridge Wells".

The 42-year-old entrepre-neur's crime was to justify his plans to stay on as Asda chairman after inheriting the ultra-safe Kent constituency on the grounds that "being a backbench MP is not a full-The Opposition's cam-

paigns spokesman, Brian Wil-son, seized upon Mr Nor-man's over-candid admission in the Yorkshire Post to warn Tunbridge Wells that it would be "short-changed" if it voted for the high-flying candidate picked to succeed Sir Patrick Mayhow. He demanded a statement from the Tory

ency and parliamentary work add up to something more than a full-time job. The idea that you can run a grocery chain is bizarre." He went on

to predict that "it would be no surprise if Tunbridge Wells decides to express its disgust". Given that the Tory major ity in 1992 was 17,132 it would take a lot of Tunbridge Wells's most famous export to stop Mr Norman, although future colleagues predict that his hopes of office in a Tory

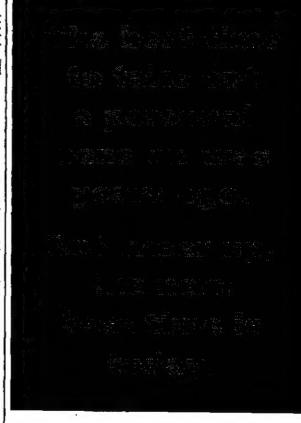
government may be harder to achieve. From his home in Leeds yesterday Mr Norman was unrepeniant about what he called "typically cypical knock-about stuff" from Labour over his commitment to remain. Asda's part-time chairman for at least three chairman, Brian Mawhinney. | years - having given up the | Wells.

"Perhaps Dr Mawhimey should say if this doctrine on backbeach work-rate is to be the general rule for Tory candidates." said Mr Wilson. "Most MPs find that constitutions who be a built, said Mr Norman, who recently told the man, who recently told the Tatler magazine that he hoped politics would allow him to spend more time with his family. "This is one of the faw jobs in the world that we

can do together," he told the magazine. "There's no way you could take your wife to work at Asda."
Yesterday the Cambridge graduate accused Mr Wilson

of having "a classic anti-busi-ness, ivory tower attitude" and complained that too few MPs on either side came into Westminster from public companies.
As a novice politician he

was not to know that the Labour MP for Cunninghame North is also a company di-rector — as founder of the radical weekly, the West Highland Free Press. It does not circulate in Tunbridge



my legs I asked her not to put her hands on that part

of my body. She started touching my ileostomy. She saked what had I got in my

pocket. I became upset as there were several male of-ficers within earshot. She

Parkhurst: "I was asked to

undergo an intimate body search including removing

my shoes, inspecting my feet, oral inspection, full body rub and allowing a dog to smiff for illicit sub-stances. I said I was not

prepared to undergo this

did not apologise."

kind of search.

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British nurse is not guilty, insists family

Alison Daniels

HE family of Lucille McLauchlan, the British nurse charged with murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia, said yesterday that she was innocent and they would secure the best legal team to fight her case.

John McLauchlan, aged 28, said his sister was a dedicated nurse who had won awards nurse who had won awards for her work and would "never hurt anyone". In a statement, he and his parents expressed sympathy for the family of Australian theatre nurse Yvonne Gilford, found murdered two weeks ago. Ms Mclauchlan, aged 31, of

Dundee, and another British nurse, Deborah Parry, aged 41, from the Midlands, were charged on Christmas Eve with the murder of 55-year-old Gilford on December 11. She had reportedly been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran where

found guilty of premeditated murder. They were being held in a jail in Dhahran but will be moved to a women's prison in nearby Damman over the weekend Ms McLauchlan's mother

Ann, sat in tears beside her husband Stan, a former shipyard worker, at a press conference while their son told how the last few days had



The distraught parents of Dundee nurse Lucille McLauchlan, Stan and Ann, who say they will secure the best legal help for their daughter. She and another Briton have been charged with murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia, and face the death penalty if found guilty PHOTOGRAPH GEORGE WILKE

Complex in Dhaman spoken to Low, all three worked.

Under Sharia law the women could be executed if found guilty of premeditated are obviously worried sick about her situation and are making efforts to secure the making efforts to secure the very best legal representation

for Lucy."

He said his family had been in constant touch with the Foreign Office since the news broke last week and had been told there could be a preliminary hearing "quite soon".

In Riyadh the British con-

be visiting the women on Monday with a list of possible legal representatives, includ-ing British lawyers. The women's next court appearance will be before three Sharia judges.

Mr Patey said embassy staff

could not interfere in Saudi Arabia's judicial procedures. He said no request for visas to visit Saudi Arabia had been made by the McLauchlans or by Ms Parry's next of kin.

the killing after a row with the victim.

A spokesman said concerns had been expressed over safety measures at the King Fahd hospital, which employs an international staff. Describing a brief telephone conversation with Ms McLauchlan, her brother said she had been treated well but that the family was still

been "absolute hell".

John McLauchlan, an oil-rig confirmed that his staff would newspaper Al-Hayat claiming speculation about the possworker, said: "We have be visiting the women on the women had confessed to like outcome has made this a speculation about the possible outcome has made this a

very harrowing experience for my family. The last few days have been terrible for us and for Lucy. She is a cheerful, normal girl who is popular with her friends. She was looking forward to getting married."

Mr McLauchlan made no direct reference to reports that Ms Gilford's father does not intend to ask for clemby Ms Parry's next of kin.

In London, Foreign Office

Having a daughter held in officials described as specula
a foreign prison is every fam
Ms McLauchlan had been

August. She had previously been a nurse at King's Cross Hospital in Dundee but was dismissed in May for gross gation by Tayside police into allegations of dishonesty.

According to the procurator fiscal in Dundee, a summary complaint hearing will be held at the city's sheriff court on January 23. Her family, however, said they were unaware of her

Milosevic told to respect will of the people

East Europe

ERBIA'S protest movement scored an important victory yesterday when a team of of arguments "that no demo-international mediators un-equivocally upheld opposi-capted". His report recomtion wins in local elections and called on President

Slobodan Milosavic to respect the will of the people.
The judgment by the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), was greeted with jubilation in Beigrade by crowds of opposition supporters who have protested daily ers who have protested daily since the government refused to accept a string of defeats in major cities in municipal

elections on November 17.
But the calebrations turned sour as night fell, when police clashed with protesters returning home from a rally. Witnesses said police at-tacked with truncheons after being jeered. At least one person was beaten unconscious, and two foreign television

their cameras smashed.
The OSCE findings are not legally binding but they pres-ent Mr Milosevic with a stark choice. If he accepts them, they could provide a face-sav-ing way out of the deadlocked confrontation. If he ignores the judgment, he will make it clear that he would rather resume the role of interna-tional parish then share contional pariah then share even

in 13 disputed cities and towns and in nine Belgrade 100 100

municipalities.

Speaking at a press conference in Geneva to announce the OSCE findings, Mr Gonza-lez said the Serbian courts an-nulled the results on the basis cratic country could have ac-cepted". His report recom-mended that the 53-nation OSCE issue an urgent call on the authorities "to implement

the will of the citizens as expressed in the polls".

The Spanish mediator said he telephoned Mr Milosevic to inform him of the findings and asked for a response by sarly next week.

"There exists an extraordinary opportunity for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to solve this concrete problem, to initiate real democracy in the country, and to reintegrate it-self into the international community," said Mr Gonzalez.

An OSCE council meeting

is expected in Vienna before the end of next week to consider Mr Milosevic's res-ponse. Diplomats say eco-nomic sanctions, lifted after last year's Bosnian peace agreement, could be reim-posed if he refuses to compromise. Russia, bowever, has opposed the use of further in-ternational pressure.

In Belgrade, around 80,000 Zajedno supporters cheered and danced in the street after the ruling was announced. But coalition leaders said they expected the president to choose confrontation.

tional parish than share even a token slice of power.

The former Spanish foreign minister, Felipe Gonzales, who led an OSCE mission to Serbia last weekend, said the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition had won local polls

The weather in Europe



Around the world

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Forecast for the cities

European weather outlook

A warm front will bring snow to much of Norway, but most of the rest of the region will be fine and cold with treazing fog patches. Overnight snow in Denmark and southern Sweden should stop this morning. Max tamps ranging from zero on the Norwagian west coast to -15C in northern Finland. Law Countries, Germany, Amstria, Switzerlands.

A strong ridge of high pressure will maintain intensely cold by dry weather in most places, but there will be further snow showers in Benefux and north Germany, and some more persistent snow over the Alps. Max temps between -2 and -8C, France: France:

A shallow low will bring heavy snow to many parts of the country, although the Midl will be somewhat warmer with showers. Max temps ranging from 10C on the Mediterranean coast to -4C in Alsace.

Spain and Portugal:

Challow Low pressure will bring outbreaks of rain.

Shallow low pressure will bring outbreaks of rain, locally heavy, with snow over higher ground in northern Spain. Max temps ranging from 3C in the Basque country to 15C in southern Portugal and south-west Spain. South-west Spein.

Reality:

The very cold north-easterly sirflow is gradually easing, but northern italy will have a few show showers, while southern italy will have surnly spells and scattered rain or hall showers. Max temps ranging from -IC in Lembardy to 10C on Sicily and Sardinia.

Chramac

Very cold Indeed with rain and hill snow - heavy snowfalls will continue in the northern hills. Creta and Rhodes will be relatively mild with thundery showers. Max temps ranging from -2C in the northern hills to 15C on Rhodes.

Television and radio — Saturday

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3.50 Timeout Tomonov's World, 6.00 World
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Show, 7.00 World News and Weether, 7.30
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8.20 Eleten in New, 9.00 World NewSines and
Weether, 8.05 World Focus Holson, 10.00
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Pupper Messiers, 12.50 Faurio in 10.00 E.
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 Apins Sidny, 8.30 Apins Sidny - Line, 7.00
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 7.45 Some Mothers Do 'Ave Tim. 8.25
 Whatever Happened to the Lively Lack?
 Association, 10.10 Kolek, 11.10 The
 Equalizer, 12.10 Marri Vice, 2.05 The
 Aburn Show, 3.00 Shopping at Night,
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e Askrafishiset

7.00 The McLauptin Grup, 7.30 Histo Austin, Histo Verna, 2.00 The Best of the Ticles, 8.30 Europe, Journal, 9.00 Lean Grup, 9.30 Computer Chronicles, 10.00 Filemet Cale, 10.30 At Home, 11.00 Super Shop, 12.00 Gel, 1.00 Euro PCA (604, 2.00 MH, Power West, 3.00 Terris: Date Cup, 4.00 Sum, 4.20 Farris: File Sub Cup, 4.00 Sum, 4.20 Farris: File Sub Cup, 4.00 Sum, 4.20 Farris: File Sub Cup, 4.00 Sum, 4.20 Farris: Rub Winsel Grospathic, 9.00 Missieri Geographic, 9.00 Missieri Geographic, 9.00 Missieri Geographic, 9.00 Missieri Sub Missieri Missieri Missieri Missieri Sub Missieri Sub Missieri Sub Missieri Missieri Sub Missieri Missie Discovery

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 Doc. 8.30 Mysteris of the See. 7.00 Keys to
 the Past. 7.30 A Copp of Cardes, 8.00 Secreta
 of the Posmics, 8.30 Where Gester Walver,
 8.00 History's Mysteris. 3.00 Close,

Television and radio - Sunday

8.00em PULE: Those Magnificent Men in Their Rying Machines. 10.10 News. 10.15 The Good Book Gaids. 10.30 First Light. 11.00 PLBLE Cuo Vacid? 1.45 The World's Strongest Men. 2.16 News. 2.25 Tom And Jany. 2.30 Just Wilson. 3.00 The Scolerom. 3.30 Emiliarios. 4.95 The World Of Pater Robbt And Finders. 5.35 Estimates. 6.35 News And Westher. 6.50 Repland.

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7.00am World News, 7.15 World Westins,
7.20 Jonny Briggs, 7.35 Robin and Rosis
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8.10 Dengamouse, 8.36 Meld Marien and
Her Marry Men. 9.00 Bays Peter Special,
9.25 Grange HE Combins, 10.00 The Terraica,
11.50 World Westine, 12.00 The Terraica,
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9.36 McGlementh, 11.36 Songe of Pales,
12.10 Canaly, 12.25 Prime Westiner,
1.05 The Plant, 2.30 The Young Ones,
3.06 The Past Show, 2.36 McGden Tinnes,
4.30 The Fernilly, 6.00 Caught on a Train,
8.30 Sweries Top of the Pops,

BBC World ● Gutelset

Radio 4

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7.00wm World News and Westner. 7.20 Edwin
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9.05 World Focus, Assignment, 10.00 World
News and Westner. 10.00 Throut. The
Coffine Show, 11.00 World Headines and
Westner. 11.05 World Focus: Everymen. 12.00
World News and Westner. 12.00 Window on
Europe. 1.00 World I Headines and Westner.
1.05 World Focus: Polo Pole. 2.00 World
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Match Spools, 12.25 Figh Proud Walder, 12.46
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8.00 Something to Wills Home About, 8.30
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Rain, 9.15 The Greenfeld Collection, 10.00

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Sky Mories 7.00 Dreamer, 9.00 The Neptune Factor, 11.00 Prediat Fight 174, 12.55 Octopusey, 9.05 Other Women's Children, 5.00 Thunderhold, 7.10 Goldinger, 9.00 Hercules and the Amezon Women, 11.00 Judge Dredd, 12.40 The Movie Show, 1.10 Romeo is Eleading, 2.55 Love in the Strangest Way, 4.40 New Eden,

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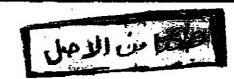
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First blood to the bailiffs in latest bypass battle

Alex Belies and Geoffrey Gibbs

NVIRONMENTAL protesters trying to stop construction of a Devon trunk road were caught on the hop yesterday when bailiffs one hour to evict a camp they had taken two years to build.

The battle to stop the Exeter-Honiton A30 bypass is the latest flashpoint in a wider campaign against road-building. Many veterans of the high-profile action against the Newbury bypass, which started almost a year ago, have been in Devon preparing defences including networks of connecting

Twenty bailiffs with 30 police officers as back-up launched a pre-dawn raid on Aliercombe, the smallest of the three camps on the route. Despite threats by protesters to chain themselves in the tunnels, only five were there and none was underground.

The Under Sheriff of Devon.

'It went smoothly. There was no

resistance. They were a bit dozy

Trevor Coleman, said the pro-testers were found asleep in tree houses. "There was no resistance at all. It went very smoothly. We had the element of surprise and they were def-

initely a bit dozy."

Sep, aged 21, said: "I was asleep in the communal tree house and it took me a couple of minutes to realise what was going on. By the time I had woken up and got my boots on there were two

climbers inside."
The focus of the protest — a 13-mile stretch of dual car-riageway, linking the M5 motorway near Exeter with the

existing Honiton bypass —
has divided local opinion.
Local people, who have
been promised a bypass since
1929, have long argued for improvements to the existing road, which contains a num-ber of accident blackspots and is often choked with traffic, especially during the

summer.
But the need to cut a new stretch of road through the east Devon countryside, involving the destruction of ancient trees, also led to local environmental campaigners

anti-roads protesters, veter-ans of battles around the

country.
Since 1992, when the Dongas tribe invented anti-road direct action by squatting on Twyford Down near Winchester, roads protests have be-come part of the British cul-tural landscape.

The best known were at Batheaston, Wanstead, Pol-lock and Newbury, although there have been many more. Even though none has stopped a road being built, campaigning groups feel the protests have shifted public opinion in their favour.

The protests have had a

long-term effect. The Government realises that building road can have serious political and financial implications for example, more than 215 million was spent on secu-rity costs at Newbury. Many planned road projects have been abandoned.

Companies also think twice before tendering for road con-tracts. Costain, which is building Newbury, is still harassed by protesters. About a quarter of the shareholders who turned up at Costain's extraordinary, general, meeting in London yesterday were

The Government gave the scheme in October 1993 after a public inquiry. The £50 mil-lion contract to build and oprate the road was awarded in July to the Anglo-German consortium Connect under the Government's Private Fi-nance Initiative.

The camps which then sprung up around the site of the bypass were nicknamed the University of Road Protests because people have been living there for so long and the protesters have deve oped new techniques for de laying the onset of the

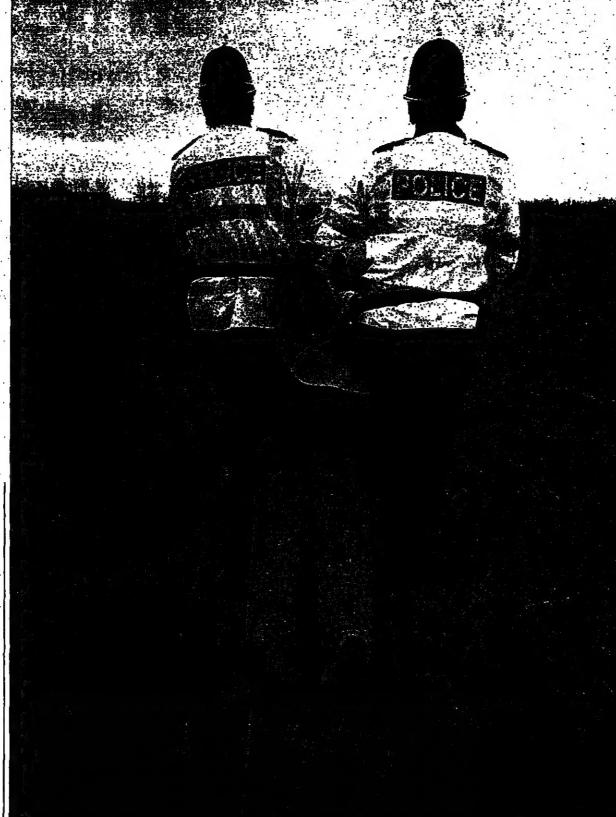
diggers.

A web of underground tunnels was built, where protesters planned to hide, blocking the exits when the bailiffs moved in. The tunnels strucmoved in the tunies struc-ture is so weak that the weight of heavy vehicles above ground would cause them to collapse, a move which no contractor would dare risk, the protesters

They also adopted the tested technique of building structures in the trees, which they planned to "lock on" to prevent or delay eviction.

When the critical moment

came yesterday morning, two people were arrested. A 30-year-old man was detained on volving the destruction of ancient trees, also led to local year-old man was detained on environmental campaigners | charges arising from the restatuty's walk-over is metal of a metal of with a metal of eviction once evictions of the two larger on the camps.



Road to nowhere . . . Police remove a protester after yesterday's raid on the camp at Allercombe

A30: protesters evicted

Landmark protests

TWYFORD DOWN, 1992: | the highest profile local The first direct action anti-road protest. The Dongas tribe linked with environmental groups and local residents to object to the M3 extension near Winchester. They said it would cut through beautiful countryside.

WANSTEAD, 1994: The battle over the M11 link road saw hundreds of protesters clash with police and private secu-rity guards. The link road, still being built, will run through Wan-stead, east London: Protesters took over five houses and occupied trees on Wanstead Common.

BATHEASTON, 1994: Bel Mooney, wife of Jonathan Dimbleby, was

resident to join hardcore direct action activists camping out on the site of the Stainswick bypass, Batheaston, on the outskirts of Bath. Her involvement in spring 1994 and the attendant publicity was instrumental in bringing the ideas behind road protests to a larger audience.

NEWBURY, 1996: The largest protest so far. At its peak in February 1996 several hundred people were living in camps along the ninemile route. More than 900 people were arrested, mostly for obstructing the sheriff and aggravated trespass. A mass rally against the A34 bypass attracted

Jennessee WHISKEY



Newbury this year became the largest roads pro-

'We have put out the call on the tree phone for other Trolls to join us'

extensive than we expected." He added: "We have endeavoured to safeguard their be-longings, and although these are very numerous they are of little value and we will leave them for their collection

at a suitable time.
"I am disappointed that for so-called environmental protesters they have taken little care of their immediate environment and the site resembles a waste dump."

Yesterday's walk-over is

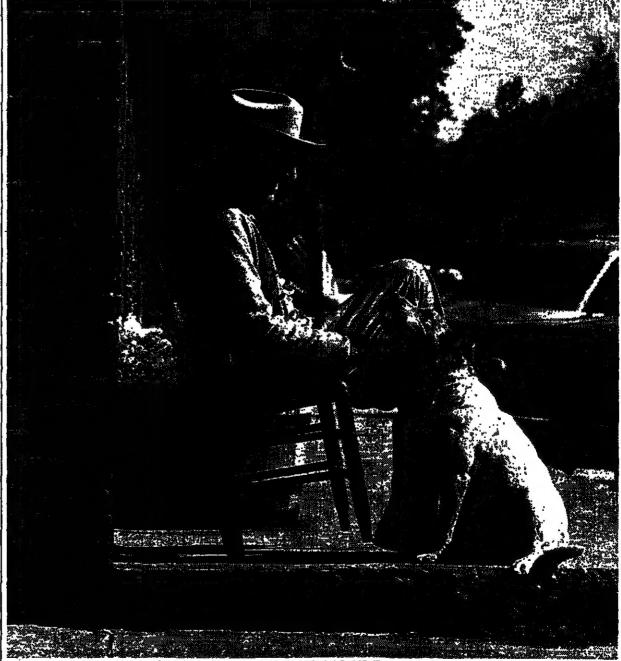
Newbury bypass protest and a woman was arrested for aggravated trespass after allegedly entering the cordon of red and white tape thrown up to the country for supporters to head down there.

Tunnelling contractors and climbing experts checked the tunnels and tree houses to ensure no protesters remained before work began with a mechanical digger and chain saws to render the site to join those who have been living at the neighbouring camps for up to two years. Mr Coleman's officials ac-Around 100 feet of tunnels were excavated. Mr Coleman admitted: They were more

knowledge that evicting the Fairmile and Trollheim protesters will prove a more difficult prospect. But a spokes-man said the balliffs were not concerned the the technical difficulties involved or the prospect of more protesters arriving as a result of the Al-lercombe publicity. "We feel we have the men and machin-ery to cope with whatever sit-

Jester, a protester who arrived at Fairmile about a month ago, said he and others living there had been on full alert since early in the morning after hearing news of the Allercombe eviction.

Keeping watch from a pre-carious-looking tripod structure beneath the huge oak that dominates the camp, he said he would lock his arm into a metal oil drum to resist eviction once the Under Sher-iff's men were spotted moving



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352 USA. WHEN YOU VISIT THE TOWN SQUARE of Lynchburg, Tennessee, there are a couple of sights you can expect to see.

One is our town dog, who's been around forever. The other is Mr. Herb Fanning, who's been around even longer. Mr. Herb drops into Jack Daniel Distillery often, to make sure we're still mellowing our whiskey the way we did when he worked here. Which is to say, the same way our founder prescribed back in 1866. So far, we haven't disappointed Mr. Herb. Nor any of the folks who enjoy a whiskey made the old-time way.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

The Guardian Personality of the Year

John Major won the BBC's Parsonality of the Trial simples amid accusations of dirty-desting. No such doubte, will such the Guardian's polf. You are Invited to your stary end office. Poll closes at midnight December 30. Case should cost as then 10p. Hesuits published on Jentery 1, 1007

- For services to the Labour Party. Jane Austen
 Jero Aust

mutiny ship faxed messages about their ordeal to Manila, explained that the ship had been seized continued from page 1

Britons held on

captives were "safe and un-harmed" and negotiations to reach a "more reasonable" pay request were under way.
"It is the fifth day. They have been there since December 23 and there are ongoing negotiations to resolve the situato be demanding a pay rise of at least 500,000 naira (£3,500) a

unharmed despite the passing of a deadline by the Nigerian workers who said things will happen if their demands were not met by then," he said. Filipino crew members,

shortly after leaving an oil olatform.

suggest the captors were The Nigerians are thought

A French oil services com-pany identified as NTPM is understood to employ the for-Filipino crew members, is involved in the wage who had been able to send negotiations.



"We shall not progress towards a fair society until privileged members like you and me who do very well out of spurious traditions are prepared to protest against them." Head to Head: the Honours List

The Week page 16

Alison Daniels reports on the political row over cold weather payments to the elderly as icy conditions swept Britain again yesterday

'Million missing out' on heating aid

ABOUR yesterday attacked the Government's cold weathe payments scheme after it emerged that only those living in six areas of the country will qualify for help with heating bills despite bitter weather conditions across the country over

Last night, as weather fore-casters predicted a further drop in temperatures, there were warnings that many elderly people faced hardship and even death as a result of poor heating and poverty.

Under the Department of Social Security system pen-sioners, the disabled and families with children under five all on income support, will receive payments in five areas in Scotland and in Liscombe, near Dulverton, in

Benefits Agency payments of £8.50 a week are triggered when the average temperature has been at freezing or pelow for seven consecutive days, or weather stations pre-dict such temperatures for

the next seven days. However, Harriet Harman, shadow social security secretary, said the rules meant that almost 1 million old people who did not claim the income support to which they were entitled missed out on help with their fuel bills.

The stark truth is that Britain's poorest pensioners may have to choose between heating and eating this win-ter because the Tories have failed to ensure they get the benefits they are entitled to."

Although Labour do no pro-pose to alter the formula triggering payments, the Labour MP for Preston, Audrey Wise, said she hoped to pilot into law a backbench bill requiring the wind chill factor to be taken into account when calculations account when calculations account when calculations accounts when calculations are several to the calculations are several to the calculations are the calculations are several to the calculations are th culating payments. The current system was, she claimed designed to be triggered as in-frequently as possible.

Concern about payments were also raised by the Liberal Democrat MP Diana Maddock, who said 250 people died of hypothermia last winter. The charity Help the Aged called on the Government to relax the criteria for payments from seven days to

Scottish payments have been iriggered on the basis of pre dictions for the next week while the Somerset payments based on temperature recorded over the last sever

The social security minis ter Andrew Mitchell, defended the current scheme which was "introduced by this Conservative government to help some of the most vulnerable people in our

A DSS spokesman said it was too simplistic to say a million pensioners would miss out. He said the Government made every effort to ensure those who were entitled to benefits knew about them.



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EU d

ides Pality

Colder times ahead as ice makes it treacherous for drivers

Man dies after falling through pond in attempt to rescue dod

country yesterday amid predictions that temperatures will continue to fall over the

ROZEN weather condi-tions brought chaos to roads throughout the on most major roads around London, including the M25. M1 and M11.

Police in Kent said motorists had ignored dangerous A light dusting of snow and conditions causing a number temperatures of just above of accidents on the M2 and freezing left thousands of M20. In one incident a driver

had to be freed from wreckage | ing to rescue a stranded dog. | after his car hit a railway

In the Midlands motoring organisations painted a picture of delays and treacher roads and dense fog and said they had been innundated with pleas for help.

Snow in London closed part of one of the city's main routes, the North Circular. In Wales a man drowned after falling through ice try-

Divers recovered the body of 52-year-old Edward Rees from a pond near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, after a day-long search involving a

helicopter. Mr Rees, of Pen-y-darren derthyr Tydfil, had been walking in countryside above reported missing by relatives after failing to return home when darkness fell.

those who have drowned in similar tracedies to about 16

in five years. In Scotland police and mountain rescue teams called off a search for a climber who has been missing since Christmas Day. John Win-ship, aged 53, from Temple Cloud, Avon, disappeared after separating from a friend in Glen Nevis at the end of the access road to Ben Nevis near

The Glencoe and Lochaber | had been bitterly cold. oined by a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth and mountain rescue teams from RAF Kinloss and RAF Leuchars,

A spokesman for Northern Constabulary in Inverness said it was possible Mr Win-ship, a father of two, had walked off the hills. However, he said conditions on the hills and 35.4 respectively.

but abandoned the search

after combing the Lochaber

The cold snap also saw a big rise in the number of flu cases, according to figures released by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Last week there were 129 cases of flu and flu-like illness per 100,000 of the population. The incidence rate had risen since the end of the previous week when it stood at 87 per 100,000. In the previous two weeks the figures stood at 53.8

Briton saves French sailor on high seas

FRENCH solo sailor was." Following the rescue was recovering last night after being rescued from the sea by British round the world yachtsman cold and happy. He has no included the sea of the sea of

dreams of race victory as he sailed to the rescue of Raphael Dinelli, aged 28, who was stranded in a life raft dropped to him by a rescue plane after his yacht Algi-mouss began to sink in the Indian Ocean on Thursday

The pair were competing in the Vendee Globe non-stop, single-handed race around

Mr Goss, aged 34, a former Royal Marine who sold his house and ran up debts of more than £80,000 to fulfil a 10-year ambition to take part in the race, was the first to respond to the Frenchman's urgent Mayday call.

His sloop the 50ft Aqua Quorum, which is the smallest in the field, was part-designed by the man who put the front on Concorde and was launched by actress Jo-

The ex-British Steel Challenge skipper, from Plym-outh, Devon, managed to ren-dezvous with Mr Dinell's life raft drifting in the ocean at

11.40pm (GMT). Laurle Gallizzi, said: "Pete went straight away in the di-rection of Raphael when he heard what had happened.

"Every hour from then on he sent us a fax to say how he was going. He sailed there really fast, we were surprised at how quickly he got near to But he the spot where Mr Dinelli anyway.

juries. I've just given him a cup of tea."

In a statement, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said: "We confirm that Raphael Dinelli has been rescued by the Aqua Quorum. Raphael is in good spirits, suf-fering from mild hypothermia

only."
"Their intention is to head for Hobart to offload

The two men had developed a close bond earlier in the race after the Frenchman helped Mr Goss by keeping in radio contact with him for several days after his satellite fax broke down.

Mr Goss, an experience yachtsman who finished second in his class in this year's single-handed transatlantic race, will be compen-sated for the time he has lost in the event.

He is currently placed seventh out of the 10 competitors remaining from the origi-nal field of 14 yachts which left the French port of Les Sables d'Olonne on November 3, at the start of their 22,000 mile voyage. They are due to return to France in February

The French organisers of the race said Mr Dinelli was competing unofficially. His entry was barred shortly before the race began because he had not done enough sailing to qualify for the gruel-ling event.

British firm urged to withdraw from Malaysian dam project

ABIRMINGHAM company which has won a contract to provide alternative housing for at least 9,000 Malay-sian forest dwellers when their homes are drowned by a dam has been urged to withdraw from the project by the environmental group Friends of the Earth because the people are to be removed by

force. The Bucknall Group has a key role in preventing delays in the £4 billion Bakun hydroelectric project in Sarawak on Borneo by providing the housing Many of the tribes-men have said they will resist

mainly primary forest, in year that the government had forcible moving of native

people.
These tribes were not fully

consulted about the project and are opposed to it. How-ever, the government has de-cided they should be removed if they will not volunteer to be rehoused. Many tribesmen have said they will resist. Work has begun on clear-felling the forest. The aim is to finish one of the largest rock wall dam projects in the

world by 2002. Friends of the Earth wrote to David Bucknall, the ing out the opposition of more than 40 groups of indigenous people and environmental, human rights, women's and

The project will drown The High Court in Kuala more than 200,000 acres of Lumpur ruled on June 19 this

requirements after the repre-sentations of three indigesentations of three indige-nous peoples from the area. Bucknall's contract in-cludes building new long-houses and providing support facilities including schools, roads, water and electricity supplies. However, the native peoples believe the area is not fertile or large enough to sup-port them.

Sarah Tysak, forest cam-paigner for FoE, said: "There project is viable in the economic sense, but feasibility studies and reports commis-sioned by the government have been classified as offi-cial secrets.

"We think any honourable company should withdraw from a project like this. The

cluding the longhouses of five | falled to meet legal environ-tribes comprising 9,000-10,000 | mental impact assessment | dam project is dirty work." She said For had given the the company six weeks to reply to criticism, but it had so far not done so. A dossier the consequences for local people and the environment, and the doubtful economics of the project were sent to the company on November II.

a reply was being prepared. He added: "Our responsibility is to erect houses for these were told they were required. "Relocation can be difficult. It is bound to bring all kinds of emotions, some of them not happy. We are not involved in forcibly removing them: our

people's needs are met after discharge from hospital.

Many hospitals have claimed they have valuable bed space taken up by patients, generally elderly, task will be to build the houses. Once that is done our responsibility for what hap-pens to the people ends."

Hospital beds 'blocked' by social care patients

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

ALMOST three-quarters of local authorities questioned in a survey admit there is "bed-blocking" in hospitals because there are patients fit for discharge who cannot be moved out.

The survey by the local authority associations found that 50 authorities reported a total 1,865 blocked beds in their areas. In one area, 178

beds were occupied by people awaiting discharge.

Bed-blocking has emerged as one of the biggest problems facing the NHS since the interduction in 1000 of the comtroduction in 1993 of the community care system, by which local authority social services departments must ensure

awaiting assessment or care arrangements by social services. A survey last year by the NHS executive suggested more than 6,000 beds might be blocked in this way in Eng-

Although the figure from the local authorities' survey is far lower, it is not a com-plete picture and it has been calculated on a different basis. Most important, it represents the authorities' first formal acknowledgement of

the problem.

The survey covered the 141 social services departments in England and Wales and drew responses from 69, 72 per cent of which said they had blocked beds.

Twenty-three departments said patients were waiting for a care home place of their choice; 14 reported funding problems; eight said patients were waiting for equipment or adaptions to enable them to go bome; two said patients were refusing to leave hospital.

Girl, 16, who stormed out of home after family row found hanged in nearby woodland

Owen Bowcott

TEENAGE schoolgirl who stormed out of the family home on Christmas Eve after a row with her father was yes-terday found hanged in wood-land less than helf a mile

The body of 16-year-old Stephanie Edmunds, of Rhigos, near Aberdare, in south Wales, was discovered after mounted police led a wide search over nearby hills.

The operation followed a gos was also upset by the desperate public appeal on Boxing Day from her father, Reginald Edmunds, who initially thought she had gone off to her room to sulk The girl—she used to babysit for family had pleaded with family had pleaded with my grandchildren. Everyone

Stephanie to come home, saying that their disagreement grandaughter's hair. She told schoolgiri Kavieleh Ward wee. had been resolved.

Officers found Stephanie early yesterday. Inspector Tony Garrett of South Wales police said: "It's a mystery. One minute she was in the house but when her parents went to look for her she had

Mr Edmunds, his wife Diane, and their two sons Geraint, 18 and Philip, 18, were said to be distraught.
The close community of Rhi-

me she wanted to be a hairdresser. We can't believe what has happened. She was a happy quiet girl - it's impos-sible to think she would do something like this. Everyone is totally shocked. We have been worried sick all over Christmas, now our worst

fears have come true." Police are not treating the death as suspicious, but a spokeswoman said: "The last known sighting of Stephanie was at 5.45pm on Christmas Eve and we would like to speak to anyone who may have seen her since that time or who can give any informa-tion about her state of mind."

Meanwhile, police hunting

schoolgiri Kayleigh Ward yesterday carried out an intensive search of two travellers' encampments on the outskirts of Wrexham.

police as "streetwise", disap-peared a week ago after leav-ing her home in Lorne Street, Chester, to buy chips for a neighbour. Despite Christmas appeals from her mother Yvonne, 36, there has so far been no trace of her. More than 50 officers from Cheshire and North Wales

took part in yesterday's operation investigating two large encampments at Ruthin Road and Croes Newydd, on the

by police to have had contacts with the travelling community. She used to play truant from school and go into the centre of Chester, where she Kayleigh, described by would chat, to homeless people. One report suggested that a lone child of around Kayleigh's age was out carol singing on Sunday night on the sprawling Blacon council estate in Chester where Kay-

leigh lived until last October.
The incident room at Chester police station received over 300 calls over Christmas which are being followed up by detectives, but so far there has been no confirmed sighting. Anyone with information edge of Wrexham. was asked to call the Nicknamed "Oddball" or room on 01244 613613. was asked to call the incident



Stephanie: 'She was a lovely girl. Everyone loved her'

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Moscow hails trade pact with China

JSSIA yesterday signed a wide range of agreenents on the transmilitary technology to China, hoping to use Beijing as a counterweight to Nato

President Boris Yeltsin, who was back at work after his long recovery from openheart surgery, held a 50-min-ute meeting with the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng. In comments clearly direc

ted at Washington, a presi dential spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said the two leaders had agreed that the future political map of the world should be a "bi-polar one which is not divided into leaders and those who are

It was also pointed out that Mr Li was the first foreign visitor to see Mr Yelfsin since he returned to the Kremlin after a sixth-month absence, and that a visit by the Chi-nese president, Jiang Zemin, would follow in April. Mr Yeltsin, eager to present

himself with a foreign policy success after so many set-backs with Nato, said yesterday: "Our strategic agree-ments reached in Beijing

countries' determination to prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, would meet Mr Li twice a year, to parallel the contacts already established with the United States vicepresident, Al Gore.

selves a target of raising annual trade turnover to as much as £6.2 billion next year. The sale of Russian mil-itary and nuclear hardware will be at the forefront of the Sino-Russian

on building in China a gas centrifuge plant for process-ing uranium. A similar project to sell gas centrifuge technology to Iran caused a

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Above, President Yeltsin (right) welcomes the Chinese prime minister, LiPeng, at the Kremlin yesterday, his first meeting with a foreign leader since his heart operation. Right, Father Frost and his daughter Snegurochka ("snow-born girl") join soldiers exercising at a barracks in Moscow to help them celebrate the new year

The atomic energy minis-er, Viktor Mikhailov, who has been viruperative about the West's attempts to stop triple the trade of Russian nu-clear technology to China, £155 million a year. In the military field, China

forge closer links, it was an-nounced that the Russian Sukhoi 27 fighters from Rushas already bought 48 sia and is negotiating a licence to build 200 more. It has also bought two Kilo-class ground-to-air anti-aircraft

> change of military technology, was signed yesterday with journalists excluded. Big problems remain in the relationship. Mr Yeltsin and President Jiang are due to sign an agreement with the presidents of the former Soviet republics of Tajikistan Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on withdrawing troops along the 2,580-mile border, but the negotiations remain highly sensitive.

The lasue of ceding land to China, which was once the cause of fierce and bloody bor-

was signed to build a light-water nuclear power station, the Russian region closest to it the Russian region closest to if. With the rise of the nationalist cautiously with China.

the sale of Russian reactors in these deals is a big incen abroad, said he expected to tive for Russia. Its ultimate aim is to build a gas and oll pipeline to China and particiwhich is currently valued at pate in the construction of the world's largest hydro-electric dam, on the Yangtze River. But China is reluctant to

put up the money and is anxious to see as little cash as possible involved in the multi-billion pound deals Mr Yeltsin, however, keen to have the summit in April, which would be a foreign policy success, in con-trast to his administration's

gradual acquiescence in the eastwards expansion of Nato. Both countries regard themselves as victims of the transition to a market economy and, starved of state orders and funds for conversion, are desperate to find new markets. The pressure to sell mili-

tary equipment and nuclear reactors and technology by the US to stop Russia saliing its hardware to India and then Iran have met with in-



ebed forms 'third force' to strike at Yeltsin

the role of a fond grand-

father. He said: "The presi-

dent has spent half a year

recuperating, but someone

his behalf, and did it so badly that Russia is in crisis

now. This crisis may reach

its peak in the spring."
The new party, called the Russian Popular Republi-

can Party, would avoid the extremes of both left and

was running the country on

David Hearst in Moscow

LEXANDER LEBED. who has emerged as the most powerful opposition figure in Russia. has announced that he is forming a political "third force" to attract millions of voters who, he claims, are disappointed with communism and alienated by the

self-styled democrats. Striking out at both President Yeltsin and the Communist leader, Gennady Zynganov, Gen Lebed de-clared in a newspaper interview that the main danby people prepared to make ne decisions in their own interests.

The former security chief made clear that his break with Mr Yeltsin was final by devoting a large part of the interview to the president's health.

"I know for certain that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is a very sick man," he said. that Mr Yeltsin was ignoring the advice of doctors by launching himself again into the political fray. Gen Lebed said that physi-cally Mr Yeltsin was fit only

right, he said, and had substantial financial backing. Gen Lebed, although popular, knows that he lacks a pan-Russian organisation. His announcement was supporters as well as those fed up with Kremlin intrigues. Asked who would support him, he gave a diverse list of potential supporters.
"We will seek the support
of small and medium-sized

business, big private industry, the armed forces, the military-industrial complex, the intelligentsia," he told a news conference in the village of Golitsyno, outside Moscow.

While parties in Russian politics are ten a penny — Gen Lebed has founded two previous movements - his

to Mr Yeltsin. Gen Lebed has thrown political caution to the wind, sensing that the end of Mr Yeltsin's second term as president may be fast approaching. He is now using the same

language about Mr Yeltsin. his former political partner, as Mr Yeltsin's disgraced former bodyguard Alexander Korzbakov. Gen Lebed gave further backing to Gen Korzhakov yesterday by saying that he to try to arrest two party

workers, who were caught White House during the election campaign.

Netherlands faces looming **EU** deadlines

is narrow, writes

John Palmer in his second report on the new EU presidency

RECEIVED no congratulations from other governments on assuming the European Union presidency — only heartfelt commiserations." The Dutch foreign minister, Hans van Mierlo, has a lugubrious sense of humour, but the Netherlands undeniably faces the greatest challenge of its 40-year membership of the EU when it takes over the presidency on New Year's

Day. With the deadline for the single currency and a new EU treaty drawing near, the Dutch know that the margin separating a successful presidency from a disaster is un-nervingly slim. As experi-enced members of the EU, the Dutch know how easily

things can go wrong.

They went badly wrong during the last Dutch presidency, at a crucial stage in the Maastricht treaty negotiations in 1991. The day when other EU countries rejected a particularly ill-thoughtthrough attempt to break the negotiating stalemate is still referred to in The Hague as "Black Tuesday".
The Netherlands has tradi-

tionally been seen as being in the EU's integrationist van-guard. This was always an over-simplification, as reflected by the periodic allirenected by the periodic all-ances struck by Margaret Thatcher and her Dutch oppo-site number, the Christian Democrat Ruud Lubbera

Chancellor Helmut Kohl never forgave Mr Lubbers for bowing to British obstructionism in the Maastricht treaty negotiations, particularly over Britain's single currency and social policy opt-outs.

coalition is far more wary of appearing cosy with the British government. Its days, it believes, are numbered.
The prime minister, Wim Kok, is a hard-core supporter of monetary union and wants greater sovereignty-sharing. Although big differences

The margin for failure | have still to be bridged before a Treaty of Amsterdam in June, Dutch ministers remain

cautiously upbeat.
"I am not pessimistic about
our chances ... Europe's po-litical leadership knows only too well what is at stake if [the IGC] is not concluded on schedule," the deputy foreign minister, Michiel Patijn, said

Mr Patijn rejects the idea that a new treaty can easily be postponed beyond the sum-mer. This, he says, would be to risk a politically dangerous delay to the promised time table for negotiations with new members in central Europe. It might also mean that the treaty ratification would spill over into the French and German general elections in 1998, when the candidates for the move to the single currency in 1999 must also be selected. "We must avoid a situation

in which ratification coincides with the decision on (which members will take part in] Romomic and Mone-tary Union," Mr Patijn says.

Trickier still for the Dutch, they must guess the timing of the British general election since this determines their tactics on the new treaty. The word in The Hague is that if there is an early general elec-tion — at the end of February or beginning of March — they

will call a special summit in-mediately afterwards. The assumption is that Tony Blair will move into Downing Street, and that it will then be possible to negotiate an agreement with

Some Dutch diplomats al ready see a compromise under which Britain would opt back into the EU social policy, accept some modest extension of majority voting and other reforms and, in return, be given a new, hopefully temporary, opt-out from EU controls on immigration and border controls.

The British are not the only

ones with whom the Dutch have problems. France is leading an EU-wide move Today, the centre-left Dutch ment to force the Netherlands to abandon its lax policy on soft drugs as part of the planned move to open the nnion's internal borders. Compromise here will be difficult to sell at home, but may be unavoidable for the country responsible for the

Bickering stalls Balkan projects News in brief

HE World Bank is ready to install a senior adviser in the office of international community's High Representative in Bosnia in an attempt to defuse inter-agency bickering and secure additional money from donor countries for

former Yugoslavia.

Ahead of a meeting of key donors in London in a fort-night, the bank is anxious to end rows with the High Rep-resentative, Carl Bildt, which are blocking reconstruction

World Bank source said. "The High Rep's office has taken a purely political approach, Dayton peace accord into eco-nomic rebuilding."

Mr Bildt has been annoyed

by the World Bank's support ments struggling to reduce budget deficits, it will be diffiwith the Dayton accord, and

the former Yugoslavia hopes to increase the pres-sure on donors, who are meeting on January 9.
"We are leading by exam-"We are leading by example," the bank source said.

The move follows months of bickering between the imple-

"There has been tension." a

bank officials are critical of his inflexibility.

By beafing up its Bosnian operation, the World Bank—which is providing nearly a third of the aid and loans to source said. World Bank officials are critical of target for 1997, and the total of the contact of the century.

\$5.2 billion pledged before the crease international interest, earlier this month the World Bank cleared three new loans aimed at reconstructing the shattered economy. At least

cials will warn that, unless there is swift agreement to the new funding, reconstruc-tion will be stalled.

'They don't want charity — they want to get back on their feet again'

Mr Bildt's office has not yet been appointed, but World Bank sources said a senior concrete results. economic development expert

Progress towards establish-

aimed at reconstructing the shattered economy. At least balf of all workers are still A new flagship World Bank

project, which will be high-lighted at the London meeting, is designed to restore investors' confidence. It will underwrite the risk of renewed conflict to businesses, in an attempt to lure foreign capital.

The mayor of Tuzla has told bank visitors that a detergent factory outside his town could be profitable in a few months, given the start-up money. "They don't want charity, they want to get back on their feet again," a World Bank em-ployee said. Background papers for the

London meeting warn of a mismatching between needs and funds, and point out that in the years since the end of gently need to put in place the human infrastructure necessary to give recovery a chance," the bank source said.

refugees have cut out a

huge area of virgin forest, building their shanty town

with practised ease. They have begun to steal from

local fields, and the mili-

tary commander fears for his life if they decide, now that the Red Cross has

gone, to cross the river and

300 miles to get here. Roads

have disintegrated to the extent that all traffic is

"The walk here was a disaster," said Melonie Nytr-

akimonyo, once a teacher

little square of swamp. "It rained the first night

and we had nothing to eat.

The worst was to walk and walk and walk without

knowing where we were go-

ing. We didn't know if we

would meet the rebels

now either by foot or air.

continue their trek. The refugees have walked

Belgium seeks ex-Mossad agent

THE Belgian government wants to question a former Mossad agent concerning the killing in 1990 of an American scientist who allegedly worked on a long-range gun for Iraq at the time of

his death, an Israeli newspaper said yesterday.

The Yediot Ahronot newspaper said the Belgian government sent a request to Canadian authorities to question a former Mossad agent, Victor Ostrovsky, who now lives in Ottawa, about the death of Gerald Bull, an arms dealer and weapons

In one of his books about Mossad, Mr Ostrovsky wrote that two Mossad agents visited Bull shortly before his death to try to persuade him to stop working for the Iraqis. Bull refused and was later killed by the two agents, Mr Ostrovsky wrote.
Bull was shot and killed when he opened the door of his
Brussels flat on March 22 1990. His killer has never been
caught.—AP.

France to quit Iraq exercise

FRANCE is to withdraw from a Western air reconnaissance operation over Kurdish areas of northern Iraq — a decision that may prompt accusations that it wants to dominate future trade

overtures with Baghdad.

After refusing for several days to say whether it would continue to take part in "Provide Comfort"—an operation over Kurdistan which began after the 1991 Gulf war—the French foreign

which began aner the 1991 Gut war—the French foreign ministry yesterday confirmed its withdrawal. The decision to withdraw from the mission—a joint effort by the United States, Turkey, Britain and France—marks the latest diplomatic rift between Paris and Washington.—Alex Dunal

Deaths from cold a 'disgrace'

THE death of a fifth homeless person in three days of record low temperatures prompted a call yesterday for public buildings to be opened urgantly across France.

Abbé Pierre, an octogenarian priest and campaigner for the poor, told French radio: "The deaths are a disgrace — proof of what happens when we refuse, even in good weather, to acknowledge the presence of these people."

edge the presence of these people.
"The government must immediately order railway and metro

stations to be opened and heated day and night, and any other public buildings which are available." — Alex Dunal Smith,

South Korean strikes spread

SOUTH KOREA'S biggest group of labour unions yesterday threw its 1.2 million-strong membership behind a nationwide strike until the end of the year, while the government and

employers sought to soothe workers' anger. Nurses at 14 hospitals joined strikes that have almost halted production of cars and ships and that threaten chaos when bus drivers and underground staff walk out today. More than 15,000 workers raised their cleuched fists at a rally

in Secul, chanting anti-government slogans as they vented their fury against a new labour law which was passed on Thursday. —

Doll chews girl's scalp clean

A battery-operated Cabbage Patch Doll that can chew had to be A battery-operation cannage ratern both man can one to be faken apart piece by piece when it munched a girl's hair up to her scalp and wouldn't let go. Sarah Stevens' aunt and the owner of the hair salon in Griffith, Indiana, where the incident took place took 30 minutes to free Sarah.

Sarah, aged seven, was shaken but unburt. "I have a little headache," she said.

Glenn Bozarth, a spokesman for the doll's maker, Mattel Inc. said that the toy is safe and that he knows of no other safety complaints about it. - AP, Griffith, Indiana.

would be sent ing fresh branches of govern-Although most of the sension, partly be-\$1.8 billion (£1.1 billion) cause of lack of co-ordination ested in moving beyond imposing the terms of the promised so far has been paid, the bank is worried that, with international concern about Bosnia on the among the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, aid agencies and the High Representative's office. "We ur-

Exiles abandoned to a bitter fate

Refugees in central Zaire face profound hardship because agencies are no longer helping them, writes **Ruaridh Nicoli** in Shabunda In less than three weeks, In less than three weeks,

small, isolated town of Shabunda in the heart of the Congo delta watched the Dakota lift off from their grass air strip on Thursday, carrying away the Red Cross mission to a 50,000-strong refugee camp that has developed nearby.

With them goes all chance of help for the ex-hausted Rwandan exiles. The refugee camp at Shabunda, and another of 150,000 people to the north at Lubutu, are filled with refugees who, instead of returning to Rwanda when the camps along the Zatr-ean horder emptied in early November, fled ahead of rebel forces as they pushed

Both camps are now in the "grey area", a vast swath of land caught between rebel lines and the cities where Zaire's army is re-grouping. The tense at-mosphere that pervades the area, and the logistical problems in supplying aid, made the Red Gross decide on Thursday that the risk

To get food into the camp gee agency's plane was seen at Shabunda, the relief recently at Shabunda's airagency had to fly supplies strip, although its reprefrom Kindu, the military headquarters for the area. The trips were hampered

by rain, often making the runway unuseable. Once on the ground, the boxes had to be taken by cance across the murky Ulindi, a tribu-tary of the Congo, and then carried by hand three miles

to the camp.
"It is not a logistical nightmare," said one of the Red
Cross staff. "It's practically
a logistical impossibility."
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is showing little willingness to help. The UN refu-Now his shelter is in the

sentative chose not to visit the camp. But this is an improvement. Until recently the UN has refused to believe these

people existed. Twahirwa Narcisse exists. Tired, his clothes in tatters, he sits grimly outside his home of a few sticks and a plastic sheet. He was in Bukavu when he heard the rebels attack and

watched people flee.
"I decided to follow," he said. "I couldn't make up my mind what to do, but I had to follow."

Rwanda genocide trial opens

south-east of Kigali, yester-day with the accused facing the death penalty if convicted of taking part in the slaughter in 1994 of some 800,000 Tutsis

NANDA'S first genocide cast live the opening of the trial opened in Kibungo, trial of Deo Bizimana, a former medical assistant, and Egide Gatanazi, a former ad-

ministrator, both accused of organising massacres. They are the first suspects to be tried under a genocide

It is difficult to tell what will happen to the refugees agency has left. Whatever happens, it is not likely to be happy either for them or for the local population.

along the road."

Gingrich UN offer linked to reform

EWT GINGRICH, the controversial Repub-lican speaker of the House, has offered President Bill Clinton a deal allowing the United States to pay off the \$1.4 billion (£875 million) it owes the United Nations, as the seal on an agreement to pursue a

According to White House sources, the offer was made at a private meeting before Christmas and has yet to win the backing of powerful Republican senators. It could Republican senators. It could also run into trouble because of the controversial cuts the Republicans are seeking in the state department's overall

Mr Gingrich offered his "best endeavours" to steer the payment of the US arrears through Congress, in return for firm guarantees of future UN reform in particular, Mr Gingrich wants the White House to follow the example of other UN members and start billing the organisation for the logistical, intelligence and munitions support that the US provides freely to UN

peacekeeping operations.

These represent large sums of money. In 1994, the US was calculated to have provided \$1.2 billion of the UN's total \$3.6 billion peacekeeping bud-get. But the Pentagon's own figures claim it provided another \$1.7 billion in person-nel, equipment and other sup-port. This came directly from the Pentagon budget, al-though much of it would have

Under the new formula being proposed by Mr Ging-rich, the US could claim that, far from owing \$1.2 billion for peacekeeping in 1994, it was owed \$500 million by the UN.

The Republicans are also being advised by Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the conservative former UN ambassador under President Ronald Reagan, that the UN's decision to charge the US 31.7 per cent of the overall (and separate) peacekeeping budget should be challenged. The US pays only 25 per cent of the general

with the UN and between the White House and Congress — Gingrich denounced the UN so that the US can speak with as "a failed institution in its one voice, as Mr Gingrich has | current form, with grotesque

But negotiations will be complicated by the separate row over the state department budget and other international spending, including foreign aid. Spend- UN in principle.

ing in real terms has already declined by 40 per cent in the past decade. The 1996 budget-balancing resolution passed by Congress last year would cut the remaining balance by a further 30 per cent over the next six years.

The effects of these cuts

have been dramatic. Funds for the Central American peace process had to be raided to aid the West Bank and Gaza. Aid to Turkey was bipartisan foreign policy cut to pay for the military in-which could cut America's tervention in Haiti. The Rwanda operation forced a 15 per cent cut in all other funds for Africa.

"By any measure, the new cuts would profoundly reduce America's stature as a world power." Howard Berman, a Democratic member of the House international relations committee, warned yesterday. "Either aid to Israel would have to be reduced, affecting Israel's military capacity and the peace process, or foreign aid to almost every other country would have to be eliminated. Either 12 of our largest embassies or 100 of the smallest would have to be closed."

The issue is also influenced by domestic politics, since Mr Gingrich's apology to the House ethics committee for misleading their inquiry into his dubious use of charitable funds for political purposes has jeopardised his prospects of being re-elected Speaker on

of being re-elected Speaker on January 7.

Mr Clinton — who sees an advantage in having the Republican majority led by a bruised and ethically embar-rassed Speaker as Congress investigates his own fund-raising embarrassments — could help reconcile some Democrats to Mr Ginerich's Democrats to Mr Gingrich's

re-election. The Republicans, meanwhile, appear content with Mr Clinton's nominations of Madeleine Albright as secretary of state, and Bill Richardson as the new ambassador to the UN.

Noting that the Republi-cans had no serious differ-ences with the administration's policy on promoting free trade, enlarging Nato, and trying to encourage reform in China through conbe challenged. The US pays only 25 per cent of the general budget.

These figures are all to be subject to negotiation — both irritant' in domestic politics. espirations to be a world ernment". That view can still be heard among Republicans.

Latin America's longest war ends - but at a price



Guatemala's 'peace without justice'

Urban disciples revive fortunes of Colombian shaman

longest running wars officially ends tomorrow with the a peace treaty between the government of President Alvaro Arzú and the guerrillas of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity

The war, which has been returned to the barracks. waged with varying degrees Since the restoration

have cost about 220,000 lives and to have displaced 1 mil-lion people, both within Gua-temala and into exile in Mexico and Honduras. It began with an officers'

revolt against the military regime led by General Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, installed after a 1954 coup backed by the United States. But it was not until more than 30 years later that the army formally

of intensity since November | civilian rule in 1986, fine pro-1960, is generally believed to cess of putting an end to Central America's last big conflict has been protracted and halt-ing. The present peace process sponsored by the United Nations, which has cost mil-lions of pounds, began in 1991 and the results have not been to everyone's satisfaction. "The greater loser from the

signing of the peace will be Guatemalan society," said a leading human rights advo-cate, Ronalth Ochaeta of the Catholic archdiocese, reflecting a widely held view that

the agreement has reinforced the impunity of those who the conflict. Rigoberta Menchu, the

Guatemalan indigenous leader who was awarded the Nobel peace prize, is among those who have formed an "alliance against impunity" to protest against the national reconciliation law passed earlier this month which estab-lishes an amnesty.

"I think peace without justice | meaning" of the accord is only a symbolic peace." | Cmdr Asturias did not rule rule out prosecution of those responsible for the army and police atrocities that cost thousands of lives, especially

massacres of the early 1980s.
But the URNG leader,
Rodrigo Asturias, defended
the ireaty, saying "the costs
of reconciliation are painful
but necessary". The guerrilla commander said he believed

Cmdr Asturias did not rule out the possibility of an eventual split among the four fac-tions which make up the guerrilla front. The URNG. whose combatants probably number less than 2,000, in-tends to transform itself into

a political party. In the early 1980s the guer-rillas controlled large areas of the Guatemalan highlands, a scorched-earth campaign

Peruvian siege reveals horror of prison life

As the hostage crisis continues, Mary Beth Sheridan in Lima looks at the demand to improve

TILIA POLAY will never forget the shock of seeing her son Vic-tor after his 14 months of soli-

rebels' jail conditions

tary confinement. He had lost 60 lb, she said. He could barely see after being imprisoned in the dark for so long. And he com-plained that security forces had beaten him so badly they had broken his collar bone.

Even today, a year later, the convicted Tupac Amaru terrorist is restricted to a 6ftby-6ft space. "They're not cells, they're tombs," said his mother, who is permitted to visit him for half an hour a

month.
The seizure by leftwing guerrillas of the Japanese am-bassador's residence has focused attention on the Tupac Amaru group and the condi-tions in which its members

Most analysts consider it the government's new human rights office, said.

Alberto Fujimori, who has flercely fought terrorism, will release rebel leaders from jail. But some say improving prison conditions could help

solve the crisis. "This is an elemental condi-tion [for the rebels]," said Jaime Antesana, an expert on

While condemning the hostage-taking, Peru's Roman Catholic Church declared that the rebels' insistence on improved prison conditions

International Red Cross officials also complained that, Sendero Luminoso. But they since the crisis began, the Peruvian government had thy.—Los Angeles Times.

banned their usual jail visits checking on terrorism con-victs. Steven Anderson, a spokesman, said the agency was "making representations at the highest levels" about the visits.

The Tupac Amaru has in-sistently condemned the treatment of imprisoned guer-rillas and asked, in vain, for elephone contact with them.

Mrs Polay, who runs a hardware store in the Lima suburb of Callao, said even her once-a-month visits to her son had been cut off.
Since his imprisonment

her son, aged 44, has been de-nied telephone contact with his family and can exercise on a patio for only half an hour a day, she said. The rest of the time he is locked in his cell, receiving meals through a small trap-door and using a hole in the floor for a toilet, she said.

"For 231/2 hours a day, he's in a tomh," she declared.

President Fujimori established the prison regime for the guerrilas as part of a broad crackdown in 1992. The system allows rebels to be de-nied family contact for a year. Even after that, few visits are permitted and prisoners are allotted only 60 cents (40p) a day of food, Susana Silva, of

people going crazy," she said. "You can imagine 23% hours in a place that's completely closed, having nowhere to walk, no chance to talk."

Still, few Peruvians protes against the prisoners' conditions. Many credit Mr Fujimori's tough approach with crippling the Sendero Lumin-oso (Shining Path) rebels, whose war against the state claimed nearly 30,000 lives in

the early 1990s.
The Tupac rebels are not considered as fanatical as receive little public sympa-

Jeremy Lennard in Bogotá reports on yage, a jungle hallucinogen seducing the middle classes

a jaguar-tooth necklace, Siona rolls his eyes and chants, his concentration focused on a staff of macaw feathers and leaves which he holds in out-

stretched hands. Siona is one of the last shamans of the Kamza rainforest Indians, who inhabit the Sibundoy valley in southern Colombia.

His disciples join the chant as he leaps up. He shakes his wand over their heads, and administers a thimbleful of vile-tasting brown liquid to each. In a ritual which dates back 1,000 years, the Indi-

ans have gathered to take yage — a powerful hallucinogen and purgative cen-tral to their religious rites The drug, extracted by boil-

RESSED in flowing his body in animal form classes. In hundreds of iraditional robes and and embark on a magical, dimly lit middle-class livcleansing journey.

"We all have the pure spirit of the animal world inside us." says Siona.

"Our souls ascend into this domain, where we maintain communication with our ancestors. The spirits show us divine truth and guide us through our terrestrial lives in harmony."
As Colombia strives to join the ranks of the devel-

oped world, such ceremo-nies are in rapid decline. But yage, like coca before it, has survived the transition from the ancient to the modern world. It may not join cocaine as a multi-million-pound earner for the mafia, but the drug is becoming increasingly popular in mainstream Colon-

bian society. ing the bark of a jungle vine, induces profoundly altered states: the participant's soul appears to leave they have found new disciples in the professional Shamans now travel reg-

ing rooms, executives in sharp suits have been getting cosmic together.
"Yage has been popular

for many years among the bohemian circle of artists, actors and writers," says Pedro Chindoy, who has studied the spread of the drug. William Burroughs and

Alan Ginsberg experi-mented with it, and co-wrote a book on their expeiences. But, Mr Chindoy observes, page's wider popularity is a recent

"In many ways, a drug which bonds body and soul so strongly with nature is strangely out of place in a city like Bogotá," he says. But maybe it is the cor plets escape from one's ur-ban surroundings, and the subsequent feeling of cleansing, which is so appealing."

salesman, agrees. He has taken yage several times and feels it has changed his personality. "I have seen deep inside myself, and faced the conflicts taking place there," he says.
"I understand myself

'A drug bonding body and soul with nature is strangely out of place in Bogotá'

better and cope better with the world around me."
Roberto Osorio, a
respected artist who bases his paintings on yage vi-sions, says most who try the drug find new ways of dealing with the stress of their lives. Not everyone can claim

such positive results. Mr Osorio recalls a bank man-ager who had menacing vi-sions of fire and brimstone,

Jorge, an architectural | and who has never been | back to the sessions. Mr Osorio and his colleague Javier Lasso are

page devotees. They have been attending weekly rit-uals for more than a year, and are "in training" to become shamans.

This is a lengthy process: the would be medicine men must first learn how to call up the spirits. They must also assess new disciples' tolerance of the drug, using weight, metabolism and processes as the design of the drug.

psychological state to de termine the right dosage. "When you take yage, you must put yourself entirely in the hands of the shaman," Mr Osorio says. You are at his mercy.

Unlike many habitual users of hallucinogenics, he and Mr Lasso seem surprisingly down-to-earth. But their paintings are vivid representations of their vi-sions. Mr Osorio assumes the form of a crocodile, Mr Lasso a condor. Both are waited on by lesser

Creatures. Their paintings do not show the unpleasant initial effect of yage. As a pur gative, it induces violent vomiting and diarrhoea. It is hard to imagine Roberto and friends coping with this among the whiteleather sofas and deep-pile carpets of fashionable

A bank manager who had visions of fire and brimstone has

north Bogotá.

never been back

Yage is also attracting at-tention from medics. Researchers are investigating indigenous claims that the so-called "vine of the soul" has wide-ranging me-dicinal properties.

Scientists in the United States have recently discovered that harmaline, one of its active components, is effective against Leishmaniasis, a parasite-borne disease affecting the skin.



Indonesian firefighters tackle a church set ablaze during riots in Tasikmalaya, West Java

Rioting Indonesians target non-Muslims

John Aglionby in Jakarta

IOTS rocked the Indonesian province or west. Java for the second consecutive day yesterday in what appeared to be racially motivated violence against the local Christians and

Dozens of argry Muslims looted and torthed a number of shops in the small town of Ciawi, 125 miles south east of the capital Jakarta, before hundreds of troops and police restored order.
No deaths were reported

but it emerged that two people had died in Thursday's mass unrest in the nearby town of Tasikmalaya. One was a Chinese woman, aged 45, who was burnt alive trying to save her car-parts shop from an angry mob.

The violence was provoked by rumours that police in Ta-sikmalaya had beaten up three Islamic teachers, apparently for disciplining one of the officers' sons. Thousands of people rampaged through the town for 12 hours on Thursday. They schools, dozens of banks, car

showrooms and shops, and stoned the police station.

Most of the properties were owned by Christians or people of Chinese descent. Chinese are resented in Indonesia. nesia because they make up fewer than 3 per cent of the 195 million population but control almost 75 per cent of The rioters scrawled graf-

fiti on walls saying: "No to Jesus", "No to Jews" and "Police are supercorrupt". More than 150 people were detained. Three thousand security personnel closed off much of

Tasikmalaya yesterday, which was described as "calm President Suharto called for calm and religious unity last night in what is the world's largest Muslim

Speaking at a post-Christmas civil ceremony, he said: "I believe that most religious people in this country are able to control themselves ... but they should be mature and practise self-restraint, against the Koran.

avoiding activities that can create resentment among

Analysts, however, said the riots were economically and rios were economically and socially—not racially—mo-tivated. A sociologist, Sard-iono Jatiman, blamed legal in-justices, social tension and increasing disparity of

He said: "Not many people realise these problems can trigger social upheaval. But once they accumulate, even the smallest thing can spark off unrest."

Hasan Basri, chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council, said the violence had nothing to do with religion. "I'm convinced imscrupulous and irresponsible persons mobilise the masses to become destructive," he said, though

without naming anyone.
The violence comes two
months after five people died in similar rioting in the East Java town of Situbondo. Twenty-five churches were razed there after the mob became incensed at the light sentence handed down to a man accused of blasphemy

News in brief

US airports get X-ray scanners

Sophisticated X-ray machines designed to detect explosives in checked baggage will begin arriving in United States airports next month.

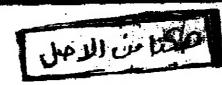
The Federal Aviation Administration said 54 machines will be built and installed in 1997.— AP.

Rowdy passenger Canadian police said a flight canadian police said a llight from Europe to Chicago was diverted to Goose Bay, New-foundland, after a drunken il-year-old man from Blackpool allegedly assaulted an elderly

passenger. The man had to be restrained by the crew. — AP. McDonald's attack A gunman charged into a McDonald's restaurant in Vallejo, California, and shot three female employees in the head before escaping, police said. One of the victims, aged 17, is

in a critical condition and the others are stable. — AP.

Out of tune A Dutch woman, aged 55, became so enraged with her husband singing the carol Silent Night for several hours that she stabbed him in the chest, police said. He is recovering in hospital. — Reuter.



The essence of success

family business the first men in the Paris based on the new and exciting beauty business to realise, as turn of the century need for a turn of the century need for a range of make-up and toiletry the exciting prospects and opproducts which could be used portunities possible in makeby a lady without putting her up, that it was a beauty busi-at risk of being confused with ness. In the 1920s, entranced

The firm of Guerlain was finme houses in Europe. It had long enjoyed royal patronage. Jean-Pierre's grandfather, a chemist who had set himself up in business in 1628, was perfumier to King Charles X, the ill-starred Bourbon of whom it was said that if he did not know how to rule, he at least knew how to cease to role. He went into order with rule. He went into exile with an exemplary lack of fuss. While he was still on the throne, Guerlain created a special cologne, Eau de Co-logne Imperial, which, a wag said, should have been called Eau de Cologne Ineffetuale. Guerlain also created a cologne for Balzac, a much more powerful and demanding man, to help inspire him to write his novel, Cesar

Guerlain's children broad-ened the scope of Guerlain by producing what many would consider the greatest — and certainly some of the earliest - French fragrances: Jicky (1889); L'Heure Bleue (1912); Mitsouko (1919) and Shalimar (1925). They were the basis of the firm's wealth for the en-

studied science and received a doctorate from the University of Paris, was a business man as well as a creative

EAN-PIERRE Guer-lain, who has died aged 91, was born into a flourishing early efforts. He was one of

The firm of Guerlain was already well established in Paris and was considered one of the most prestigious perfume houses in Europe. It had long enjoyed royal patronage. Jean-Pierre's grandiather, a chemist who had set himself up in business in 1628, was

sees, as a flagship for the firm; an experimental centre and a place where the latest developments in treatments and health care could be

UT PERHAPS the most important and long-reaching aspect of the insti-tute was that it housed one of Europe's first scientifically-based schools of eauty where traditional home-made recipes — some nearer to witch's brews than would put on her face — were turned into rigorously tested products, which could be guaranteed safe for mass pro-duation and consumption.

As a scientist, Guerlain was very conscious of the dangers of the untried and untested. He introduced stringent quality control programmes to check the safety of every product bearing his firm's label. Each department was qualified scientists. He was the first cosmetic manufacdates for his products.

He continued to produce the perfumes which were con-sidered the bedrock of any French beauty house. In 1929 came Liu; it was soon the most popular scent in Europe among the sophisticated and among the sophisticated and wealthy. It symbolised the elegant—even arrogant—fentine assurance of screen actresses like Dietrich, Gerbo and Carole Lombard. Four years later came Vol de Nuit, dedicated to the aviator and mystic philosopher Antoine de Saint Exupéry,

Constantly creating new perfumes was a pattern which

perfumes was a pattern which continued for the next five decades: indeed, the house of Guerlain in its 168 years has produced over 300 fragrances. In addition to perfume, Guer-lain has also been forwardlooking in its make-up experi-ments. In 1991, it introduced l'Or de Guerlain, a make-un range aimed, with great suc-cess, at Asian markets. The firm ceased to be an en-

tirely family concern in 1994 when the luxury goods con-glomerate, LVMH, bought a share; however its place in the history of the minor but socially important beauty and cosmetics trade is assured. It is thanks to Jean-Pierre Guer-lain's careful husbandry of the firm which he took over as a young man that the name Guerlain still stands for glam-our underpinned by the most stringent use of the latest sci-entific advances.

pioneer, born February 2, 1905;



Michael Economides

Strong voice against fascism

ARIY last month Michael Economides, but an attack of conjunctivitis delayed him in Marseilles and language.

Who has died aged 36; delayed him in Marseilles and he decided to go on to London. He arrived in 1929 and found it difficult to get a job, which together with anti-colomatical Brigades on the International Brigades on the Inter 60th anniversary of the Span-ish Civil War, and in fulfil-ment of a promise of honorary citizenship made to members of the brigades all

head insisted on going to Madrid; and while his body was frail, his voice was powerful as he recited, in impeccable Spanish, a long poem by Rafael Albeni dedicated to the brigades: Twenty days later, and back in England, he died. Michael was born in Nico-

the Daily Worker, politicised him. He joined the League Against Imperialism and the Communist Party in 1932. Thus was he forever commit-

large or small.
In 1936, he left for Spain to fight for the republic against General Franco's fascists. He became a captain, and fought in some of the bloodiest battles including Kl Jarama. where he was shot in the leg. and El Ebro, where he Michael was born in Nicosia, the son of a wheat merchant As a 16-year-old he left Ralph Fox, George Orwell, while reciting Shelley, Byron, November 25, 1995

helped to found the Cyprus newspaper Vema. In 1946 he was in the Cypriot delegation — which also included Cyprus's current president,

Glafkos Clerides — at the Paris Peace Conference. marriage in 1952 to Bernice Holmes he ran it with her. Theirs was a relationship of deep love and loyalty. In retirement Michael enjoyed pottery and drawing but his big garden was his pride. There he tended his tomatoes

down a slide with his grandchildren - rather faster than he expected.
The "unorthodox Greek" as

his son Kim called him, died as he lived, deeply committed to the universal values of Between 1943 and 1968 he peace, democracy and free-had a restaurant and after his dom. He is survived by his wife, his son and daughter-inlaw Clare, and two grandchildren.

Michael Economides, restaura teur, born January 17, 1910; died

Economy Minister, 61; Mari-

Giuseppe Dossetti

Ethical society Italian-style

priest, partisan and politician, founding father of the Italian republic and guiding spirit of left-wing Italian Catholicism

Born in Genoa he joined the resistance in the Emilia in 1953. This was dominated by in the Emilia — The Small the communists with whom Dossetti had, throughout his His commitment to a "solidarist" conception of religion made them his natural allies but also chief competitors for hearts and souls. In March 1945, in a circular letter to the priests of the mountain per-ishes near Reggio Emilia, he resolved that the resurgent Catholic party, Christian De-mocracy (DC), would never be conservative: if the choice— "mass anti-capitalism move-ments" it would be anti-Christian to choose the

As a delegate to the Constituent Assembly (1946-47) and deputy-secretary of the DC, Dossetti co-operated actively with the Italian Communist Party (PCI). While the cun-ning Alcide De Gasperi, as prime minister, was busily engaged in the reconstruction of a political system which ex-cluded the communists from power for more than 50 years. Dossetti was establishing with them the foundation of a constitutional settlement which is still extant. He sup-ported De Gasperi's coalition with the PCI because he thought it would lead to the creation of a new state enjoying genuine popular legiti-macy. De Gasperi's motivacoalition would help main-tain social peace while the young republic made its first

The practical consequence of this was a constitution committed to the notion that the public good, social cohesion and equality were more important than property. important than property rights, and that the state should not be a substitute for individuals and communities but a facilitator of their pursuits. However, without a political system and a govern ment devoted to these tasks, aspirations.

For a short while, Dossetti for those Catholics engaged in befriend Catholics to grubby the chimeric pursuit of a non-politicians in search of a communist and non-capitalist path for Italy. They lost all the battles they fought. They opposed the expulsion of the socialists and the communists from the government in 1947, membership of Nato, and the growing Americanisation of italian culture. Neverthele some of Dossetti's erstwhile followers, such as Amintore Fanfani and Aldo Moro, played a key role in Italian politics. The present prime minister, Romano Prodi, was one of his last disciples.

Dafydd Orwig

events, Dossetti abandoned politics in 1951. This pale and austere figure, absolutely committed to a utopian vision of an ethical society, had become out of step with an in-creasingly hedonistic Italy. In Family of the Amunciation
— dedicated to prayers, charity and missionary work in
the Holy Land. He played an
important role in the Vatican
II Council as the *eminence* grise of Cardinal Lercaro. In-formed that Paul VI had



he expressed, without a trace "another favour granted by His Holiness". In 1972 Dossetti went to Jordan to estab-lish religious communities and study Islam and Judaism. He returned to Italy in the 1980s. His name was still bandied around in political circles, but most ordinary Italians no longer remem-

The main features of his thought were a distrust of the solidarity, the importance of the autonomy of the human personality, and a suspicion of individualism disconnected from any obligations There could be no individual freedom without social responsibilities. In modern Britain, Dossetti would be an anti-Thatcherite communitarian. After his retirement Dosset-

ti's prestige grew in propor-tion to his declining political impact. He became a name to whom many paid lip-service moral conscience. Dossetti had become a myth while still alive. As Italian political Catholicism attempts to recover from the demise of the DC, Dossetti's name will be invoked with even greater vig-our. The task will be easier without his uncomfortable

Giuseppe Dossetti, politician and priest, born February 13. 1913; died December 15, 1996

Weekend Birthdays

IF YOUR mother was a columnist (Anne Scott James) and your father a war correspondent (Macdonald Hastings), your chances of ending up in journalism must be fairly high. So it was for Max Hastings, 51 today, whose only other ambition — to be a paratrooper was frustrated by his great height. Critics (and there are many) say that even after more than 10 years as a newspaper editor, first at the Daily Telegraph, now the London Eve-ning Standard, his quest to be a gentleman special correspon-dent (a sort of latter-day Winston S Churchill) remains frustrated. Friends (of whom there are more) counter that he's just too good a hack to be a



proper toll. Insufficently Eurosceptic to satisfy Courad Black and so fiercely competitive that he drives colleagues into paroxysms, he retains that key quality of good repor-

ters - an anarchic sense of irreverance to authority of left and right. Never short of con-troversial opinions, he relies on an endless stream of sceptical one-liners to rescue him from tight corners. To a colleague who savaged him for once joining Murdoch's Sun-day Times, he wrote: "We're all just plano-players in neigh-bouring brothels." On capturing Port Stanley at the climax of the Falklands War (in Chur-chillian vein, his finest hour) he amounced to the waiting marines: "If was like liberating a suburban golf club."

Today's other birthdays: Air Commodore Molly Allott, former director, WRAF, 78;

Intikhab Alam, Pakistan cricket manager, 55; Lew Ayres, actor, 88; Terry Butcher, football manager 38; William Camps, former master, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 86; Donald Carr. cricket umpire, 70; Sandra Faber, American astronaut, 52; Thomas Gould VC, 82; Roy Hattersley, Labour MP,

journalist, 64; Noel Johnson, actor, 80; Nigel Kennedy, vlo linist, 40; Frances Morrell, former leader, ILEA, 53; Hil-degarde Neff, actress, singer and writer, 71; Bridget Prentice, Labour MP, 44; Sin Raven, author, playwright, 69; Joan Ruddock, Labour MP, 53; Dame Maggie Smith, actress, 62; Richard Sud-

halter, writer, jazz musician. 58; the Rt Rev Bill Westwood, broadcaster and former Bishop of Peterborough,

Tomorrow's birthdays: June, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair (June Gordon), musical director and conductor, 83; Andrew Bache, ambassador to Denmark, 57; Lord Beaverbrook, former treasurer, Conservative Party, 45; David Boon, cricketer, 36; Sir Samuel Brittan, economic commentator, 63; Bernard Cribbins, actor, 68; Keith Crossan, rugby player, 37; Ann Demeulemeester, fashion designer, 37; Baroness Denton, Northern Ireland

anne Faithfull, singer, 50; Roger Hart, ambassador to Angola, 53; Sir Simon Hornby, president, Royal Horticultural Society, 62; Terry Lewis, Labour MP, 61: Maxy Tyler Moore, televi-sion executive and actress, 60; Martin Offiah, Rugby League international, 30; Iain Paxton, rugby player, 39; Rosa-lind Preston, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 61; Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist MP, 48; Alan Rusbridger, editor, the Guardian, 43; the Rt Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 60; Harvey Smith, showjumper, 58; Jon Voight, actor, 58.

celebrates new life. All these

features still characterise modern new year festivities.

mimes and the few remaining

a time of purification and in-

bad and calling in what is

good. "Out with the old, in

not on Janus but on Old

mow down the past.

vocation, letting go of what is

with the new," people shout as they toast the season, calling

Father Time with his sickle to

Pagans join in the festivities

as well, but for us the true New

Year is usually the solstice, or

even earlier at the start of win-

not our principal feeling as we

face the coming 12 months, but a serenity in the knowl-edge that although the face of

divinity changes, divinity it-self remains active behind the

world. Out with the old and in

mysterious workings of the

ter. Fear of the unknown is

although masquerades has moved to Christmas panto-

THE CAREFULLY articu-lated support for the Welsh language of Dafydd Or-wig, who has died aged 68, never wavered. His objective was to ensure that Welsh. spoken by more than 70 per cent of the people in his own county, Gwynedd, became the main official language in that part of the country. He com-bined long local government service with a command of and deep affection for his na-

tive language.
Thirty years ago the rights
of Welsh speakers were heavily circumscribed, and the idea that a public authority should conduct its busi-ness in Welsh was a dream. But gradually, thanks to the efforts of Orwig and others, changes, such as simulta-neous translation in the coun-cil chamber, were introduced. Born in Deiniolen, north Wales, he took a geography degree at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He taught at secondary schools in mummers' plays. New Year is Blaenau Ffestiniog and Be-

thesda before becoming a lecturer at Bangor Normal College, a teacher training establishment. He chaired Gwynedd education committee from 1985 to 1987 and his election this year as chairman of the new Gwynedd authority was thoroughly deserved.

A former chairman of the European Board of Lesser

Used Languages, he became chairman of the Welsh Books Council in 1994. One of his most notable achievements was to edit the massive Welsh

Uncharacteristically for candidates in parts of rural Wales, he always stood for Plaid Cymru during the long years when "independents" held sway. Perhaps his example led to the outing of independents as nationalists when the new authorities were elected. Plaid now controls Gwynedd with 45 out of

HE CAREFULLY articulated support for the Jones, a ploy followed by elsh language of Dafydd Orother Joneses. And his entry in VIP Wales, a reference book listing some 1,700 prominent Welsh people, is unique in that it appears in the language he loved.

Dafydd Orwig [Jones], language campaigner, and local politician, born September 17, 1928; died November 10, 1998

Death Notices

LEVETE - Sally, sped 60, on Sunday morning, 22nd Decamber, very pasceluity, calmy and gently, in St Joseph's Hospice, Mara St, London EB, Her Ille, like her vokes, was soft and low, an excellent thing in woman, but it restricted out to louch the lives of countiess others with tenderness, care and love. The threats service, which will be quiet and for family and her closest friends, will be at 2.50m on Testady 2nd January, at 91 Gifee without Cripplegate, the Services church in Fore Street, London EC2. The service of Thanksgiving for her like will be at 4.50m on Saturday. 15th February, also at 51 Gifes, whore all who come to this celebration will be properly retreated attenuations in her memory to the Heigh the Hospices, 34 Britannia B., London WCIX 910.

SWAN Dr Devid N.B. (Lon.M.B.,B.S.) of Strogrande, Spalin. Suddenly on 21st December 1986, whitst visiting family. Sorely missed Husband of Shelta. much loved Father of Jacomy and Gordon. Grandfaller of Arbert, Thomas, Repert, Freys, Lutie. Celtilis and Megan. Private family human. No Bowers by request. Donation, if depired, by Medical Research may be sent please to 8. Hollowell 8. Son and W. K. Burbidge Funeral Directors, Holly House, 2 Derngets, Northempton NN1 IUB.

Engagements

ROBERTSON/SYNES, We are pleased in announce the engagement of Lauren Robertson, designer of lan Robertson and Muriel Sanderson, originally of trains, Scotland, to Paul Sylvas, ton of Anthony and Isabelle Sylvas of Glasgow.

WEBBJORUNDY. The engagement is announced between Jarsuny Webb, son of Mr & Mrs Revursual Poer Webb of Ectar, Devon and Jill Elizabith, designer of Jeffrey Grundy of Botton, Lancashire and the late Joyce Grundy who was the lirst to inow.

ES seats.

He was one of the first in Sum and Sym Mor-Fit.

Service of the first in Sum and Sym Mor-Fit.

Face to Faith

Pagans and the first festival of light

Prudence Jones

A 121 500

HE PAGAN revels of the year's end have a long history and a deep meaning. From the solstice eve (December 20) to New Year's Day a series of festivals dispel the winter's gloom and hardship, and celebrate the imminent return of the light.

Paganism with a capital "P" is the nature-venerating religious tradition of Europe, which sees the turning of the seasons as expressing the ever-changing appearance of divine reality, greater than we can fully grasp and often inscrutable in its meaning.

In winter he is Hades, Zeus, when spring begins, The Sun in summer,

In autumn, delicate lacchus.

This is what the second-century worshippers of lao, the cosmic principle, were told by

Apollo's oracle at Delphi. Ear-lier forms of Pagan religion had already given the Graeco-Roman world the three great year-end festivals which have endured into modern times. These have been adopted subsequently by different belief systems such as modern Christianity, secularism and

Paganism. Our customs of giving presents, having fun and games, and holding a ceremonial feast at midwinter comes direcily from the Roman Satur-nalia (December 17), probably the oldest festival of them all. The Romans understood Saturn to be their ancestor, god of agriculture and of plenty, and sometimes (wrongly) explained his name as being that of the god of the seeds which were sown at about this time.

ing at which richer neighbours entertained the poor and poorer people shared. their meagre reserves to create a larger meal than they could have had alone.

The sathrist Lucian even suggested that before each Saturnalia the rich should ceremonially purge their houses of meanness, avarice and greed, then formally invoke the blessings of three gods: Zeus, giver of wealth, Hermes the bestower, and Apollo of the great gifts. The ancients not only complained, as we do, of the crass materialism of this season, but were able to propose a religious ceremony to transform avarice into gen-erosity with the help of the

The solstice feast of Mithras, god of light (in Roman times it was December 25, the date adopted by Christians by the year 354 AD as the birthday of Jesus, the Sun of Righ-teousness), added an extra dimension to the midwinter festival. This time of year marks the renewal of hope, celehrated in the Scandinavian tradition by a ceremony for 'new growth". In Rome, the old invocation of the fruits of light and warmth was augmented among followers of the solar religion by a medita-tion on the principle of light, and on the eternity of renewa in which dark and light, hardship and plenty, mystery and revelation succeed each other in the flux of time.

OR MODERN Pagans, too, the winter solstices, often called Yule from Scandinavian tradition or Mother-Night from Anglo-Sexon is a time of celebrating the hidden light. It allows us to experience through ritual the knowledge that the reality god of the sun, but the principle is the same: that at this point in the scheme of things, darkness will give way to illumination. Finally we come to New Year's Eve, the start of the calendar year. The ancient Kalends of January was marked by torchlight processions, the singing of songs, masquer-ades, for tune talling and the

versal death. Rites may vary from a simple meditation to a full-scale ceremony enacting

the return of the goddess or

custom of decorating houses with greenery, which has now moved back to Yuletide. It was dedicated to Janus, the gateseeper god who looked both forward and back. Presents were given at the Kalends too, symbolising good luck for the coming year. The processions, perhaps meant.

for purification, might alternatively be seen as depicting the passage from one year to the next. In masquerades, nothing is quite as it seems while fortune-telling is a way of dealing with people's nervousness when brought face to face with an unknown new

with the new, and may Janus bless the transition. Prudence Jones is a past president of the Pagan Federation and co-author of A History of Pagan Europe

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The parenting deficit

Hail the Family Minister: Who?

JACK STRAW made a basic error: timing. If only he had held his discussion paper on parenting back for just six more weeks, he would have received a more sympathetic hearing. What better time to promote a national debate on parenting than immediately after Christmas and Boxing Day — the two days when more people spend more time with their families than any other. Most parents this morning will be interested in knowing more about why children misbehave or hearing tips on how to reduce sibling rivalry, attentionseeking or family power struggles. Mr Straw was given a hard time last month over his proposals on parenting not least for an idea (a debate on national bedtimes) that was not even in the text. His document is much more

sensible than the commentators suggest.

It is now 20 years since Mia Kellmer Pringle, the former director of the National Children Bureau, wryly noted that just because we have once been children does not mean we know how to bring children up. In her words: "Modern parenthood is too demanding and complex a task to be performed well merely because we have all once been children". Even now, the media pays more attention to how to grow better vegetables or buy better cars than raise better balanced children. Gardeners and motor fanatics remain much more attractive audiences for commissioning editors than the country's 12 million parents. Yet, attitudes are changing. And so is parenting education. All manner of schemes have emerged in the last decade offering a mixture of home visiting schemes, advice lines and family centres where help and advice is on hand. Parents Network now has 250 co-ordinators running 2,000 courses and Home Start almost 200 autonomous home visiting schemes. Even so, they only reach 28,000 parents a year or four in 100 parents in a decade. Something more is needed.

All commentators should be wary of political parties wanting to tell parents how to bring up families. But this was not what was proposed. The main aim was to extend existing voluntary schemes, improve parenting education in schools, and increase access to advice lines. Of course, fashions in child-rearing change — but the best schemes are not prescriptive but provide parents with new ways of looking at problems. Where Labour goes wrong is in believing parenting programmes could be used for social control too. They are not designed for problem families but all families. It was foolish to believe bad parents could be ordered by courts to attend such schemes. By the time a problem family's children are before the courts, parenting programmes have become only a small part of the answer. This section of the policy abandons solutions for politics. Yet until the curfews and a preposterous new court-imposed family responsibility order, there is a serious discussion about parenting which warrants wider debate. Perhaps the Minister for the Family could a single significant speech from the minister. How many can even name him?

Santa's gravy sleigh

High on pay, low on people

THERE is one event that, sadly, is becoming as predictable as Christmas and the New Year: the annual survey of salaries showing how those at the top are feathering their own nests at the expense of those below. Once this habit starts, it seems to develop into a financial drug that is extremely difficult to shake off. The latest survey - by the independent Incomes Data Services — shows that directors of the UK's 250 largest quoted companies received a median increase of 8.6 per cent in total earnings (basic salary plus bonuses) in the most recent financial year. This was a decline on the 10 per cent rise of a year earlier but was well over twice the 3.75 per cent increase in average earnings over the same period. And, of course, percentages disguise the huge difference in cash payments. Ten per cent of £405,000 (the median pay of top paid directors) is over £40.00 while 10 per cent of male earnings (around £20,000) is only £2,000. Top earners received an increase last year worth twice as much as the entire pay of an average worker.

Such maldistribution of incomes wouldn't matter so much if high pay encouraged directors to take risks they wouldn't otherwise have made in order to increase the wealth available to everyone in the company - or if big increases were only made to managers of exceptional ability. In practice, high rewards are available to most directors irrespective of their contribution and, notwithstanding the recommendations of the Greenbury Committee, far too many directors still seem to have three-year rolling contracts. They are a disincentive rather than an incentive because they give the incumbent director a vested interest in being fired as soon as possible - so he (rarely she) can move on to the next job having collected what remains of the three-year contract in compensation. Nor is there much evidence that last year's bonanza was the result of extra risk taking. On the contrary, directors sometimes seem very reluctant to risk the company's money on projects other than their own salary increases. In the most recent 12 months, capital investment by manufacturing industry was 14 to 16 per cent below the previous year despite four years of steady confidence-building economic expansion. Managers who expand wealth creation — and genuine employment creation -- in their companies are ewels who deserve disproportionate rewards. But that isn't what is happening. Directors have discovered a perpetual gravy train for everyone in which remuneration committees, often staffed with non-executive directors who ought to know better, fix salaries and bonuses with regard to market conditions (ie last year's inflated salaries). This sets an appalling example to employees at a time when inflationary wage increases need to be curbed. The result all too often is a lethal combination of Upsizing their salaries and Downsizing their companies, a situation which prompted the renowned management guru Peter Drucker to remark (in a recent interview with Wired magazine) that a lot of top managers enjoy cruelty. He added: "What's absolutely unforgivable is the financial benefit top management people get for laying off people. There's no excuse for it. No justification. No explanation. This is morally and socially unforgivable, and we'll pay a very nasty price". We rest his case.

Letters to the Editor

Non-personality of the year Why stopping the clicks on the phone won't save us

HERE is something seriously wrong with our country when a professional politician, who after all is only doing a rather mediocre job, is voted Personality of the Year ahead of such shining exam-ples as Lisa Potts, Aung San Suu Kyi, Frances Lawrence, Anne Pearson, or indeed many others who have given inspiration and hope (Fury as Major wins poll, December 27). We were, not long ago, a country one was proud to be-long to, with ideals, compassion, and the energy, skill, dynamism and will to compete with the best. We seem, unfortimately, to be suppressing these national attributes and should not, surely, be encouraging those responsible but casting them aside and lauding those who truly deserve praise, and returning a gov-ernment that will give us back our national pride Clifford Fuller.

4 Farrant Avenue, Churchdown, Glos GL3 2BP. GAVE up listening to Today because it seemed to have an excessive sense of self-impor-tance. Its poll is not news-

vorthy; it is just gossip, it

and it shouldn't take such prominence. Incidentally, I would bet there was an orga-nised campaign for Aung San Suu Kyi too. Stephen Smith. 35 Garnet Street, Saltburn-by-the-Sea TS12 1EQ.

HE Today poll debacle gives the lie to the notion that Tony Blair is popular. The fact that, within 20 weeks of the General Election, the Labour leader was not among the top six when the nomination process was aborted should be deeply worrying at Walworth Road. The Tories may have rigged the process for John Major, but you can-not say the same about the other five short-listed.

As to the voting process it-self, Labour should be worried that in three hours so many calls were made for Major. Even if the voting was rigged, getting 35,000 calls to be made in such a short period requires a lot of commitment and enthusiasm — qualities missing within the party since the advent of New Labour. 9 Pemberley Avenue, Bedford MK40 2LQ.

OUR thousand dodgy votes rejected for the win-ner of the Today Personality of the Year poll and the result is allowed to stand. A leaked copy of a fax exhorting mem hers and activists to vote and the prospective recipient is disqualified. Isn't it time that the BBC moved its poll to a more suitable time of year, such as the very, very beginning of April?
Gail Seary.
36 Priory Close,
Beckenham, Keni BR3 40H.

ICHAEL Heseltine is correct Conservatives should indeed take heart from the poll. How can a Labour Party which makes such an inept fist of stitching up a popularity contest possibly be ready for Government? When it comes to deception, the Tories have behind them an unrivalled depth of experi-ence. Other instances during their 17 years in office are simply too numerous to list. David Clater.

PERSONAL computer Acquipped with a modern and telephone line can be pro-

THE arrogant ignorance and cultural condescen-sion of Sebastion Faults

(Diary of the weak, December

24) are all too common in the media, particularly in relation to science and scientists.

He writes: "Carl Sagan is dead. Know nothing of him but remember he used to pronounce cosmoe as Tax-

mose'." Well, the poor clasp was only an American and, worse, a scientist, like the me

teorologists who are similarly dismissed by Faulks because

they do not pronounce words in the ways he approves.

One can't imagine him ad-

mitting to ignorance of such

GREAT, NOW CAN YOU BE

LESS TECHNICAL

The space between words

76 Polwarth Gardens

Edinburgh KH11 11.J.

grammed to disi the same number repeatedly. Assuming that it would take 10 seconds to complete one call, and allow-ing for half of the calls to meet an engaged signal, one com-puter could register 360 votes in two hours. If Central Office were to set up 100 computers across the country, then for a phone bill of £3.600 it could double Mr Major's vote next Christmas. Why didn't they think of it this year?

David Marcer.

Persh Lane, Ma

Gioncester GL28HG.

N order for anyone to win the Today Personality of the Year Award, should they not possess one first? Stuart Britton. Flat 5, 747 Portswood Road, Swaythling, Southampton, Hampshire SO173SU.

NOTE that 76.5 per cent of Today listeners participat ing did not vote for John Major. Had there been an alternative-vote run-out, one of the other nominees would doubtiess have won. Is this a case for electoral reform? Dick Drew. 4 Westover Gardens, Bristol BS9 3LE.

BEGINING

DIBANG

life trying to overcome: the

ignorance of science and the

condescension towards scien-

tists by the literati who domi-

This is particularly so in

this country, where our ab-surdly specialised education

get little education in how to

communicate to a wider pub

grasp of science — but, like Faulks, flaunt it, rather than

Wembley, Middx HA0 8AX.

andress and daytime telephore gumber, even in e-maked to

eing it as a regrettable leck

lic, and few arts gradu-ates have even a minimal

Ted Welch.

em means that scientists

nate the media world.

THERE

WAS A

(How I became a dangerous terrorist, December 19). nearly half the population of Brightlingsea became "dan-gerous terrorists" when Essex Police with solid backing from the Government, forced unwanted live export convoys through our little port for

most of 1995.

Those deemed by police to be our "leaders" complained frequently of the clicks and disconnections described by Meg Henderson in her men-tion of suspected phone-tapping. No one can prove their line has been tapped, nor will the police admit it, so the unsuspecting majority will never believe it goes on. Let-ters to government figures produce waffle or no reply at

AM not surprised that there is cross-party support for the "new" powers in the Police
Bill Like Meg Henderson
Close I become a denorrous nothing to reassure us that New Labour will do anything more to ensure the proper use of power and a sensibly prioritised approach to crime and terrorism. More likely, they will continue to allow the police to abuse the law and deny responsibility -- just like political leaders.

din Halin

ichola:

raser

When details of people who when details to welfare issues are kept on police files along with suspected IRA terrorists, when New Labour refuses to commit itself to put right the social and economic wrongs of the last 17 years. wrongs of the last 17 years, what hope is there for the underclass to get back to a decent living?

Derek Metson.

5 Walnut Way, Brightlingsea, Colchester CO7 OLJ.

Science funding is unscientific

PROFESSOR McClintock of Lancaster University (Letters, December 23) is not the only academic whose physics department is upset by the lat-est Research Assessment Exest Research Assessment Ex-ercise (RAE) results. We, in Salford, have been classified 3A despite strong evidence of an international profile and the fact that we have produced a very respectable average of 290,000 per year of research funding per researcher. The particular claim to

fame of Salford physics, how-ever, is that 40 per cent of this considerable funding comes from industry, etc, as oppose to the research councils. A recent Institute of Physics report identified us as one of the top departments in terms of earnings from industry and we have recently reported to other physics professors on how we have achieved this result. The RAE assessment

must have ignored this work The message that the RAE has sent out to the physics community is therefore quite clear — divert effort to making the results of your fundamental research available to in-dustry and get less money from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). This message is in strange contrast to the criticism of physics by the Office of Science and Technology which, last year, cut the sub-ject's total funding, partly be-cause, overall, it had attracted so little industrial funding. We were advised to strive for the proportion of indus-trial funding schieved by chemistry, which, ironically,

is also about 40 per cent. The justification given for this purist approach is that it is relatively easy to get fundin from industry. Possibly this is the case for Oxbridge, where the placing of research contracts can be a matter of company prestige. It is certainly not the case for the rest of us whose final reports to indus-try are scrutinised in de-tail against strict value-formoney criteria.
There was also no attempt

by the RAE to measure the output of a department against the amount given by the HEFCE. This is a strange way of establishing value for money and surely strengthens the argument against concen-trating funding in "elite" universities. (Prof) D K Ross.

Science Research Institute. University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT.

Off the pitch

YOU report (Sports pages, December 21) that Falkirk FC have dismissed their manager for "fielding an illegible player". This seems a gross miscarriage of justice. If illegi-bility has now joined the growing list of soccer's sacking offences, should it not rather be the editor of the match programme who carries the can? Mike Gautrey. 22 The Green, Woosehill, Wokinghar

A market as safe as houses

ETER Kenway and Guy Palmer (How govern-ment should put a brake on the housing cycle, December 23) suggest that history is destined to repeat itself with ing market and that the only way to avoid this is government intervention. But, by effectively managing the macroeconomy, government has egun to create conditions in which the housing market can operate more efficiently.

The article argues that ouseholds losing their home through possession become a najor public cost, yet the evidence suggests that only about 20 per cent of those losing their omes are rehoused by local authorities. They suggest a low-inflation housing market will mean negative equity will soon reappear, but this ig-nores changes in buyer/ lender behaviour and that the

swings will be less extreme. They want controls on mortage-rate increases, even ough armual review schemes, fixed-rate mortgages and other devices already allow consumers to control costs. They want lenders to have a continuing obligation to through possession. This ignores the fact that lenders have rescheduled thousands of loans to allow borrowers to avoid possession.

Finally, they argue, lenders should widen their activities so that there is less incentive ship, but this is precisely what

STEPHEN Moss may have spent a day with the Beau-

fort Hunt (Scent of a battle,

December 27) but I hope he

now understands hunting. Hunts are known to be on their

As a League Against Cruel Sports monitor, I particularly disagree with him on two

points. One is that hunters are

Having seen the behaviour of many riders when the hounds

go on cry, lam in no doubt that

a large number of them are indeed so motivated. The des-

peration and recklessness they

not motivated by bloodlust.

a journalist with them.

Foxed by the hunters

they have been doing with funding for housing associations and universities, to give just two examples. The CML view is that the future will not be like the past and that les-sons have been learned. Peter Williams Deputy Director-General (Designate). Bob Pannell

Chief Economist). ouncil of Mortgage Lenders Building Societies Association. Savile Row, London WIX LAF.

"U ministers recently dis-

cussed how a right to a

decent home for their citizens might be created; characeristically, our Conservative povernment rejected the idea and undermined any progress. The Government's own figures suggest that around 100,000 new, low-cost homes for rent are required each ear, yet only about 10,000 will be built next year. A right to a home would concentrate a gov rnment's mind on how the ad-

ditional homes might be Requiring lenders to invest in new. low-cost homes for rent, as well as in the refuror unfit bomes that stand idle would enable the task of additional provision to begin, yet we must be in no doubt that extra homes will be necessary Greeme Cower 3 Gainsborough Court, 100 Broadgate, Nottingham NGS 26Z.

show in propelling their horses to the scene of carnage

Mr Moss is also wrong to assert that man's right to mak sport with an animal's life is

"country-dwellers". Most country people would consider it an insult to be bracketed

rural people — we have to suf-fer them in our midst.

with bloodsports. Nobody

loathes hunters more than

Back Way, Great Haseley,

Oxfordshire OX447JS.

Cobb Hall Cottage

taken for granted in the

country. He mistakenly

equates "hunters" with

is chilling to see.

American library figures as say, Norman Mailer or Arthur Miler: But this trivial entire ple is all too typical or the kinds of thing Sagan ment his Auntie goes out in the world

WHILE most departments within the BBC World Service appear to have been given a breathing space (Ten Cantonese service. Its ac-tual existence will still be trimmed by next April. The Hong Kong but southern

coming under threat and selfcensorship by the Hong Kong media is already rampant. It is particularly disappointing when British ministers keep talking about their interest and responsibilities in Hong Kong but without delivery. The talk of replacing con-entional radio broadcasts by the Internet is premature. Internet usage in Hong Kong is not yet common enough, let alone in the southern parts of China, where the rural commonity is still the mainstay. A World Service producer.

sions eased by cash cover for World Service, December 27), the same cannot be said of the service, which serves not only Asia, will lose half of its trans mission time, from 70 minutes per day to half an hour. This comes at a time when

This is your captain speaking HE "emergency meeting of a good third of the market for senior executives of Airbus commercial aftersit worldwide and has the world's most

modern, most economical Robert Alizart. Vice president, Corporate Communications, Airbus Indostrie I Road Pt Maurice Bellonte.

81707 Blagnac, France.

ress freedom in Hong Kong is Name and address supplied.

to decide on how to avoid being driven out of the world aviation market by the newlyenlarged Boeing (Airbus fights for survival, December 16) exists only in the mind of your writer. Airbus Industrie is serene about the "enlarged Boeing". It has a solid grip on

A Country Diary

MACHYNLLETH: For my ore-Christmas walk I chose the sea cliffs, following a path through acres of gorse whose bright yellow flowers did their best to fool me into believing that spring was here alredy. There were other plants that had not noticed it was winter, especially that lover of the seaside called alexanders, an intriguing name of disputed etymology. This tall umbellifer was brought to Britain centuries ago from the Mediterranean region as a food plant and seems to have been spreading quietly along our coasts ever since, its fresh green leaves developing happily all through winter. Also verdant along the pathside was another oddly

named little plant, parsley piert, forming delicatelybeautiful pale green mats. And the new leaves of penny wort, round and fleshy, had alteady half-covered a wall The wind blew cold off the land, leaving the sea immediitely below quite unruffled. But further offshore, the silver green waters of Cardigan Bay were flecked with white horses and if there were dolphins out there, as I had hoped, there were well concealed. Fulmars patrolled endlessly back and forth close to the cliffs, practising mock landings without ever achiev-ing a touch down. A National Trust sign informed me that I had reached Craig yr Adar, the Rock of the Birds. But that cliff was birdless.

It belongs in summer to the kittiwakes, razorbills and guillemots of this coast. They are probably still far away in the loneliness of the ocean and will not come back for many weeks, assuming that they survive whatever gross pollution of the sea the oil industry may manage to

In compensation, a solitary chough came to greet me, identifiable from afar by its bouncing flight long before I could hear its cheerful voice. I too was blissfully solitary. Though I walked for over two hours, the rest of humanity was busy elsewher WILLIAM CONDRY

Off to 1997 with a bang, a baby and a Bible



Mark Lawson

UST as Christian name often fix people in his-tory — all those fortyso-mething English "Elizabeths", born around the Coronation; all those Kylies and Jasons in primary schools, a legacy of Australian culture's zenith — so years be-come associated with nouns. A flick through the database of 1996's broadsheet newspapers, reveals that the last 12 months has seen the unexpected emergence of "moral-ity" (1.756 stories) and "sperm" (775 stories), while "guns" has surpassed itself with 3,732 news stories. Here, in three words, you have the how she would approach more story of the year; guns (Dun-blane) and sperm (Mandy All-of a family which has seen

sual and radio congregation, while the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York and the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Westminster spoke to cathedral crowds Amid calls for moral leader-

ship, what was offered?
The Queen's message will provide rich material for future students of the decline of monarchy. Although "the Queen's English" has come to stand for simplicity and clarity, this annual chunk of the monarch's own language is increasingly marked by ambiguity and omission. Look at how discreetly she dealt with the reigns: "In October, I opened Parliament ... symbolic of the process of parliamentary democracy which we enjoy here in Britain and in so many countries of the Commonwealth." My italics, her

Interest centred, though, on

superseded by the crash of PanAm 103 over Lockerbia.
This gave her the chance to rewrite some expected paragraphs to redress the damage caused by her imstand's declaration of the chance of the chance to rewrite some expected paragraphs to redress the damage caused by her imstand's declaration of the chance of laration that Thomas Hamilton in Dumblane was in essence no more dangerous than Michael Atherton in Harare. Yet the classroom massacre received no direct reference and was referred to tangentially only in this paragraph: "Each year brings its share of difficulties for many families. This year has, I know, been no exception. And during it some have suffered bereavement of a tragic and shocking kind."
As the Queen emphasised the
words "I know", as if to suggest personal experience, this

But the paragraph's hidden charge is yet to be detonated: "At such times, it is tempting ... to look back and say if only". But to look back in that

section appears to glide, in the risky distance of three sen-

tences, from royal divorce to

hand-gun massacre.

ments of the nation's moral leaders on their biggest day: possible, because one year's December 25. On Wednesday, the Queen addressed a televitabloid leaks and another reasonably be read as a rejective was gladdened by what he saw of Contact the Coronareasonably be read as a rejec-tion of gun control legislation. After her coded political intervention — and support for her husband — the Queen came out with unexpected feryour as Head of the Church of England. For the Dunblane parents, who should not dream of a world in which Hamilton was denied handguns, might instead "look for-ward and say "if only". If only we can live up to the example of the child who was born at Christmas with a love that came to embrace the whole world." One in the eye there for her own child, born in November 1948, who has ex-pressed an interest in being "defender of faiths" rather than Christianity. The Queen's new insistence

on her religious role was equalled by the zeal of the church hierarchies in their Christmas sermons. Recent ecclesiastical pronouncements have been marked by what is either, according to your prej-udice, relativism and pusillain three words, you have the story of the year; guns (Dun- story. This matriarch blane) and sperm (Mandy All- of a family which has seen would be deficulties and possible this year the difficulties britain to think of morality.

In such times, it seemed use find to review the pronounce of Edinburgh) now replication of scis
In such times, it seemed use find to review the pronounce of Edinburgh) now replication of scis
In such times, you have the year; guns (Dun- recent history. This matriarch only? But to look back and say 'if only' in this difficulties way is to look down a hlind alley." Church has a daughter who was forced to re-marry under Scottish canon law and a son whose personal life may require the application of scis-

torical and institutional roots." However, Dr Carey, was gladdened by what he saw as the prevalance of "spiritual refugees", who were "seeking a home." He urged them to turn to Christ. The Archibishop of York warned that "darkness and swil are never "darkness and evil are never very far from us." And Cardinal Hume reminded English Catholics that they belonged to a tradition in which believers had once been prepared to die for their faith; their own voices must be prepared to shout that "God became man and dwelt among us." So, either by conspiracy or

coincidence, the Queen and thedral because of the ecclesithe leaders of both her own church and the other main religious have responded to the terrors and uncertainities of 1996 with a call for a Christian revival. In a country where secularism and multiculturalism have risen in significance, this may amount to shutting the Bethlehem stable door after the ox and the ass have bolted. For the Queen, have noticed for the sphere, who calls for her subjects to listen to the teaching of her church, has a daughter who

And, though the Archbishop of Canterbury is right about the phenomenon of "spiritual refugeeism", many of these wanderers after God will pass by the refugee camp of Christianity for the control of the tianity for the more alluring border encampments of New Age spirituality. While Cardinal Hume invokes the example of the martyrs, the Cetho-lic Church contemplates a reduction in the obligation to attend mass because research shows that the faithful find the discipline too hard.

The Bishop of Lincoln, un-able to preach in his own caastical career wars being fought among its prelates. may seem a more honest reflection of the state of Brit-ish Christianity in 1996. And, for all the Queen's emphasis in her message on the importance of tradition, cancelling the familiar ritual in which her heir and her grandchildren prance around with hunting guns on Boxing Day might have been a more practical contribution.

After this, the score stands at 3,733 for guns, 1,757 for morality and 776 for sperm, And the nouns of 1997 wait to be

مكامن الاجل

Why we're not yet at by the innovation and warfare, and by the innovation and administrative skills that they included, is attempting to enjoy the economic and entreprenatial dynamism of continental scale while, at the same time, enjoying the advantages of national sovereignty. China, approaching the problem from the other direction, is

HRISTMAS is, among other things, a his-tory lesson. From the original event, in a corner of an imperial provsuccess of Christianity in the late Empire's contest for be-lief, Christmas has always reflected changes in our

Later came the creation of a structured Christian year based in part on events in Christ's life, a year in which Christmas was originally of much less importance than it is now, then the shaping of the Anglo-Saxon family Christmas in the 19th century, and then its present of Nato, or European monetary union, or even what may happen to Hong Kong, to scan role, for many, as the pinns cle of the consumer creed.

this is a descent or an ascent | the process of choice.

Fritz Stern called "society's growing demand for history" is growing still. For many generations now, men and women in Europe and America have expected to find in the study of the past a key to meaning a sense of location, and an idea of the future.

The events of the last 10 years, above all the collapse of the Soviet Union, which Norman Davies, author of one Norman Davies, author of one of the new histories of Europe, calls "the political equivalent of a coronary" have made that need even

happen to Hong Kong, to scan the reaches of the medieval The Roman Empire shaded into Christendom, and Christendom in turn shaded into Europe, of which the latest, been, that history is pecu-

Commentary untypical expression is the liarly reluctant to give direct European Union. Whether answers, but that it enriches

Martin

Woollacott

is a matter of judgment, but also a matter of importance. What is clear is that, with only three more Christmases before the millennium, what Fritz Stern called "society's edited by Brian Patrick and control of the matter of the millennium of the secrety's and edited by Brian Patrick. penhagen University and edited by Brian Patrick McGuire. There, for instance, you will find an account of the disintegration of some thing like a European mone-tary union, represented by the uniform Carolingian curism, or even chaos: in which the silver penny of Barcelona was in the end worth only a fifth of that of Frankfurt. This may not precisely help us with the Frankfurt of today, but it gives us a context, and the context is one of diversity. As another contributor, the Danish scholar UffeOstergaard, writes: "What was hap-pening at the opposite ends of the Eurasian continent over the last two millennia is the simultaneous disintegration of the Roman Empire and the survival of the Han Chinese polity as something close to a nation state." Now we see these two civilisations attempting something different, even revolutionary in terms of their traditions.

from the other direction, is trying to cope with the diver-sity that a modernised economy demands while maintaining centralised political

The questions that arise are whether Europe could lose, in union, the diversity that has always given it energy, or whether China could lose (either in a breakdown of central authority or in its too-rigid application), the new economic, political, and mili-tary potential of which every-body is so aware. The historian's long view does give us, then, an idea of why the anxieties apparent at the opposite ends of Eurasia today are of ends of Eurasia today are of such a contrasting nature.

The long view also marks the changes in the circumstances of Europe, in particular, which may mean that the shift toward the pursuit of a unity never achieved, and perhaps never desirable, in the Europe of the next is now the Europe of the past is now the right course. JM Roberts,

determines in his conclusion

that "Europe's work is over".

Europe, he suggests, must now adapt to the world which

The medieval record can remind us of the deep-rooted nature of certain tendencies still with us today. For exampie, the concept that "it would be a good thing if the whole world were submitted to the French kingdom" was al-ready around in 1300, according to another essay in the Copenhagen collection.

Robert Bartlett, a British

medieval historian represented there, has some fine sented there, has some fine examples of early national feeling in his book The Making of Europe (published in 1993). In one of these, a medieval Polish hishop, responding to a royal remark that another cleric had preached a good sermon, replied: "He would have preached very well — if he were not a dog head and a German." head and a German."

-HE divide between eastern and western Europe which that early anecdote illuminates is very much in mind in Davies's book. As a historian of Poland, Davies gives us a work in which the affairs of the eastern countries are not thrown in as appendages or stides, and his book was writ-ten at a moment when a true European unity, embracing both halves of the continent, the author of the other major the author of the other major new British history of for perhaps centuries.

But will it be achieved? The enlargement of both the

European Union and of Nato seem, on the face of it, the necessary instruments of such a continental consolidation, accompanied, as they edited by Brian Patrick McGuire

stable relationship with Rus-sia. Yet many are dubious that the first will be rapid or that the first will be rapid or complete, or that the second will achieve anything except to make the third impossible. The fascinatingly-named Pol-ish ruler Boisslaw the Wry-mouthed (1102-1136), who fig-ures in one of the book's many engaging lists, might have to be brought back to life to underline — by his ex-pression — the fragile nature of Western Europe's commitment to Eastern Europe even

today.

Davies tells us that "somewhere between the depths of Russia and the heart of Europe a new dividing line will have to be established hopefully along a border of peace". But on when and how, Davies cannot really help us, lamenting in his final chapter that: "It is an irony that historians, who study the past, are invariably pressed to predict the future. It helps to have fol-lowed the drift of events —

No answers, then, except perhaps a variation on George Orwell's dictum — everything is possible, but some things are more posssome things are more possible than others — and, as McGuire writes, Europeans and Americans "have every reason to look back to their medieval origins for meaning, for warnings, and for identi-ties... They are the stuff of our lives and the lives of our

its own dynamism did so must be, by the creation of a (CA Reitzel, Copenhagen)

money came from as long as it

greenish, the winning projects

the junk room that is the tra-

ditional repository of British middle-class pastoralism. No-where could I find any sense

of ambition or risk. Asked

what they wanted, the British

people had plumped not for the future but for their tried

method of erecting pleasant

fences against uncertainty.
On a chill, grey Sunday I took a boat to Greenwich. I

could see halfway around the next river bend the distant

ritual mixing of the old and new that its devisers somehow

finger belonging to Margaret Thatcher, cryogenically pre-served in an illuminated tank; the half-charred hoof of an

incinerated mad cow; a holo-graphic copy of the divorce

papers belonging to the Prince and Princess of Wales; a

bunch of Leeson's pulped sales

slips; or a replica of Rodin's

Burghers of Calais represent-ing the Millennium Commis-

sioners begging forgiveness for the horrors they have in-advertently inflicted upon us?

of notions like decency and freedom, as well as the sacred-

ter", had always been super-

fluous to national require-

ments, but it had survived nany wars, the loss of empire.

Tied by apron strings



Martin Kettle

OLUMNISTS are supposed to be paid for their opinions rather than for their knowledge. But, even in these shame-lessly fact-free times, there is a limit. And a columnist who confesses to being ignorant is taking a bit of a risk with his credibility, even

In the case of freemasonry, however, some sort of con-fession of ignorance seems to be in order. So, lest there be any doubt, let me declare about being taken seriously that I am not now, nor have I in the wider world, of time at any time been, a freema-son. Nor has the thought of ing but to survive in a threatbecoming one crossed my ening and increasingly

mind, even briefly.
I confess that I have once been inside the Freemasons' Hall in Covent Garden — and what a striking building it is. But I went only to attend a performance of Rodgers And Hammerstein's The King And I, a fact which I with funny ways are an im-hope will not count against me. As for the rest of it, I haven't a clue what the lads get up to in their aprons when the doors are shut.

Ordinarily, I would feel pretty uneasy about making this confession of innocence and then writing about the appeared to have come from subject. But then freemasonry is not an ordinary sub-ject. It is a issue which arouses an equal and oppo-site state of indignation among both its practitioners and its opponents. Freema-sons protest that theirs is the most harmless club in the world. Their opponents be-lieve that it is one of the most powerful conspiracies in our society.

in our society.

Where does the truth lie? As I say, I have no direct there is not one neat and hlue gasometer, situated in the midst of wasteland spoiled by gas seepage, marking the spot where the millennium would be celebrated with spot where the modernium would be celebrated with spot where the modernium would be celebrated with spot wasteland, which in Douglas Hurd-land, which lasers and ancient objects in a is somewhere in the middle between the two extremes. And second, that contempo-

And yet what, I wondered, Mozart joined must have would we find to recall out of something going for it. But this awful decade — a wagging two centuries on has masonry become just a bit of harmless after-hours fun for the chaps? I hardly think so. Men are past-masters at find-ing strange things to do with their time, as the makers of sheds know. But if freemasonry was really as innocent and irrelevant as the masons like to claim, then who would bother? It is simply would bother? It is simply would no longer be needed. inconceivable that so many But in a world so well-people would want to join a stocked with incompetent,

grounds to your own. No, there must be a deeper incentive for being a mason. From what one can judge, that incentive seems to be the security and self-esteem which masonry fosters among those who join. I don't think this is necessarily sinister. In fact it strikes me more as sad. The men that I see emerging from the Freemasons' Hall from time to time clasping their absurd little masonic cases in their bands don't till me with fear

but with pity.

It is only too believable that, in some professions and in some communities. freemasonry may have es-tablished such a hegemony that to become a member is a necessary or unavoidable career move. I don't underestimate that and I have no doubt that it is essential to be open about membership, especially in the police and the administration of justice, as the Police Complaints Au-thority proposed this week. But, for the most part, I suspect that freemasonry is not as glamorous as its opposo much a conspiracy of the powerful as a union of the incompetent and the insebrotherhood of little men, of dull men, of men who worry female-dominated world. of course. The world's worst tyrannies have always de-

pended on the little men. But then so have the world's most decent attempts at the good society. The little men

HAT is why I am scepti-cal about the idea that freemasonry is the great conspiracy which it is sometimes made out to be. I'm not saying that it is all innocent and quaint, either. masonry is also a convenient whipping boy for the failures of the world to live up to the critics' expectations. Some all the fault of the capitalists. Some say it's the Jews. Some say the freemasons. They are just another handy category to blame for our wider troubles.

can never face the fact that overarching cause of the sad-nesses of the world. Even police officers don't behave badly and defend one an-other from blame just because a lot of them are masons. If anything, the answer lies more in their maleness hoped would identify and preserve some portion of the national genius for the next successful women. recruits like that and then to encourage male officers to

behave that way.
It would be very convenient if the cause of all our human failures was the con-spiracy of freemasons. But it agree that freemasonry today is probably an expression of incompetence, con-servatism and maleness, and secret society if the only conservative men who spend reward it offered was the a lot of time worrying, that is conservative men who spend chance to meet other men in | an idle dream.

Only in it for the money

The National Lottery and the Millennium Commission: the perfect symbols of 90s. Britain, laments **Nicholas** Fraser

BOVE my desk | hang two 18th-century prints by William Hogarth. Oneof them depicts a group of skinny Frenchmen at Calais, eating frogs' legs sad garlic spit-roasted on a sworil. The other depicts free (if somewhat overweight) Eng. lishmen contentedly feasting Beer", preparing to give the Frenchies another thrashing.

When it was suggested last spring by medical authorities that up to 10 people had died from British beet as a consequence of BSE, I looked nostalgically at the images, and I looked again, with a sense of loss akin to the tragic, as the entire world subsequently de-clined to consume this last symbol of British supremacy to a bellowing chorus of outrage on the part of our scoundrel politicians and our moronic nationalist press.

Trapped somewhere between anger and scorn, I won-dered what Hogarth would have offered today as an illustration of Britishness. Societ ies on the make, such as 18thcentury Britain, could afford a few simple and durable symbols, but in the state of postdecline no such leisurely attachments are available.

I WENT one evening not long ago to see the National Lottery show at the BBC, because everyone I knew hated it so much and because I wanted to find out what the fuss was about Beside me in the queue were two French girls attend ing language school, a hyperactive teenage boy with a cel-lular phone, and a retired couple from Lancashire who were holding hands. While the French girls complained about the London chill, the boy made angry phone calls to BBC higher-ups, pretending to represent a powerful Hong Kong gambling syndicate.
As we shuffled toward the

studio doors, the retired cou-ple told me they spent £15 each week and had won back that amount exactly once. To retain their motivation, they kept charts of recurrent numbers (14 had performed best, then 22, although 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were most commonly selected), or they wandered around town, looking at street numbers for inspiration.

We watched as a peroxide Home Counties blonde screamed at us through expensive bridgework that it was double-rollover night, with a jackpot of over £33 million. She hurriedly introduced an astrologer called Mystic Meg, who gabbled at us through clouds of dry ice, before ushering forward the dour, suited representative of a delinquent boys' home, whom she pre-sented with an outsize fake sented with an outsize take cheque for £250,000. Then Shirley Bassey gave a spirited rendering of Big Spender.

We watched as on the monitors above our heads a man in

a Prince-of-Wales-check suit

Lancelot, a cheap-looking ma- ulation to buy tickets. Perhaps | inept or venal politicians. Prochine made of ungainly plastic pipes and filled with ping-pong balls. Ms Bassey pressed a button, and in a matter of seconds we had six new humbers. Like myself, the couple next to me had failed to choose even one of them.

N no country do so many permutations of the idea of chance exercise such a hold on the imagina-tion as in Britain. Long a hold on the imagination as in Britain. Long ago, before Adam Smith invented the notion of a providential market justly rewarding the industrious, gambling was more or less the only licensed form of social mobility, allowed to aristocrats and commoners alike; and yet state lotteries, with their implied danger in public salcommoners atike; and yet state lotteries, with their implied danger to public solvency and morals, were always suspect, even forbidden. You could bet on herses, whippets, greyhounds, cocks, pit-bull terriers, pigeons, hawks, prizefighters, wrestlers, or carriage drivers; you

prudently restricted.
In quest of such pleasures, whose elaborate rules required a lifetime's facitum required a lifetime's factium study dressed in a top hat and holding small sheaves of obscurely marked paper.

The lottery is now the indisputable national recreation, encouraging over half the popers.

The lottery is now the indisputable national recreation, encouraging over half the popers.

approached commuters at Victoria Station and asked them to choose between two enormous brown envelopes, one of which contained the name Lancelot. Up on the stage sat

this might have been expected to bring a degree of good cheer in another country, but in today's Britain — signifitoday's Britain — signifi-cantly — it had not. The tab-loid press, when not filled with hard-hick stories, tended to recount, as cautionary tales, the appalling ills that had befallen winners: bur-glaries, estracism by neigh-bours, nervous breakdowns. Uncertain of my own feel-ings I began to noll various

hawks, prizefighters, wresters, or carriage drivers; you could play the football pools, stake your money on the movements of bowls or had all but destroyed the takeness of the state of th movements of bowls or had all but destroyed the taking snooker balls; but, except for high of charities. I was taking to that messing with numbers was a mark of idiocy, particularly in comparison with the normalization of numbers was prudently restricted.

In quest of such pleasures, ideologues who believed that the leasures about the particularly in comparison with the football pools or the horses. I was harangued by rightwing ideologues who believed that an Englishman, if he could so the lottery should have been an Englishman, if he could so afford, went to exclusive clubs to play roulette, or to such upper-middle-class syndicates as Lloyds or the Baltic Exchange or the Stock Rachange, capitalism's holy of holies, whose alaborate rules waste their money against poor, encouraging them to waste their money against ridiculous odds while handing

fessionally over-familiar with the indices of national decline the indices of national decime

— a literacy rate in free fall,
scandal-ridden judicial and
parliamentary institutions,
monarchical practices preserved in the pickle-jar of
inanity — he nonetheless
maintained that the lottery
was the principal symptom of
national collapse. "It's scandalous," he said, in the tones
of Colonel Rilmon, I asked him of Colonel Blimp. I asked him whether he hadn't confused symptoms with causes. While travelling around the Depression-ridden north of England, George Orwell had written that gambling was the "cheap-est of luxuries" and, along with strong tea and cut-price chocolate, the only means of averting revolution. "No, no, you don't understand," the TV interviewer insisted. "The lottary is a fraud — like all gambling it exists to take money from people. But it's also the way we admit to each other, finally, that nothing matters but money. You can't have a society that exists on this basis and still retains any sense of itself."

I had lived for as long as I could remember, with the no-tion of genteel decline in Britain, and yet suddenly I knew what it was to inhabit a spot where all that people knew was the possibility of getting rich and, if one was clever or mcky, staying that way.

"Gambling," notes a 1994
report by the National Geming Board of Great Britain, "is an activity in which the only product which changes hands is money." One might add that

much of British capitalism

people could be parted from their money was kept care-fully opaque, shrouded by the mysteries of social acceptabil-ity. Even the over-weening ventures of Robert Maxwell, who in 1991 fell or was pushed (or jumped) over the side of his yacht, were at least stamped with the warped grandeur of the 1980s. But in the 1990s, as the milleonium draws near, Britain must make do for its scandal

whom vestigial social nuance consists of being caught with their pants down. READ through the list of the grant recipients. What did the creation of a 2.500-mile cycle route, the return to the British Isles of the Scottish beaver, or the

do with the millennium?
Why was St Patrick's birthplace eligible for a grant?
What did the re-utilisation of salmon ladders in the Thames have to do with the fin-desiècie! Nobody knew, and no-body seemed to care very much; one recipient of money there, putting out more flags for a millennial footbridge against the wet wind, at the was honest enough to say that

ponents, if not always to the objects of its patronage. It had survived, essentially, by means of what Joseph Conrad called "sentimental pre-tence", assisted by copious supplies of bunting, crooked knees, fake or meaningless titles, and blunted halberds. What it could not survive was the awesome power of money massed against it rather than directed to act on its behalf; and it was finally now expiring from the consequences of the exercise of greed that had animated it in the first place. with the idea of nonentity: minor players like Nick Lee-son and Hugh Grant, for "Where does the present go when it becomes past, and where is the past?" Ludwig

Witigenstein once perplexedly asked himself. He might have answered: in Britain, Living in Britain as I did I felf projects approved by the Millennium Commission, and I called some of counded by all the small, comrealm of authenticity, sur-rounded by all the small, com-fortable falsehoods enshrined in the national habit of resorting to the first person plural, with the remote hope that somehow, out of some reflux creation of a cryogenic "bank" of remembered national soli-of British plant seeds have to darity, things would come all right again.
But the old, public culture

had disappeared long ago, and so frayed an entity as the British state now precluded celebration of any serious nature. Did anyone believe, after all, that we would still be



THIS WEEK'S conspirit, Micholas Frater, is editor of Fine Cut, BBC2's documentary strand. France, born in London, is half Prench, and feets hopeleasty split between the two cultures. He has just finished Continental Drifter Travels in The New Europe (Seoker & Warburg, published next July). He writes regularly for Harper's



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RICHARD THOMAS in Washington on Michael Bloomberg, the machine-made man

Screen star basks in billionaire role



to Michael Bloomberg.
Reclining in the corner of a glass-partioned meeting room at his Park Avenue headquarters, walls plastered with framed articles about himself, he takes a sip of coffee and says: "Every once in a while, I get kind of pleased with myself."

As he well might in 15 years he has created a nancial information company which employs 2,000 people across the globe, in the process taking the props from underneath Reuters' longstanding hegemony ("Isn't that a little British company?") and making himself extremely rich.

"People say I'm worth a billion," he shrugs. "Just pick a number." At 53, Bloomberg is still as cocky as a teenager. He says he hasn't changed since the days he worked in the faculty car-park at the Johns Hopkins University in

"Maybe a few more grey hairs and wrinkles, a couple of extra pounds round the middle. But I'm still the same know-all as I ever was."

His telephone manner is brisk: "Yep, speak. Don't care." Democratic Senator Barbara McClusky? "Give

ber voice-mail."
Bloomberg is not the sort of man to rise smoothly through the ranks of a faceless corporation, as he discovered when he was thrown off Salomon's equity trading floor in 1981. "I kept going round saying I could run the company better than them, that they were get-ting it wrong," he explains. "I was pretty vocal."

Creating a media empire that spans trading screens, radio, magazines, TV and books has allowed him to hone his skills in self-public-ity. Apart from simple satisfaction, the justification for the constant emphasis on the one of the keys to the 30 per cent average growth posted by his empire in each of the past 15 years.

"Your name has to be known in this business," he explains. "It took Coca-Cola decades and billions. We are trying to do it in years with millions." Two 50ft wide Bloomberg screens are sus-pended over the concourse of Manhattan's Penn Station,

relaying 24 hours a day the Word According To Mike. The other secret has been to stay ahead of the curve, ahead of the next innovation. That is why much of his energy is devoted at present to building on the firm's small foothold in cable TV and piping visual images down to the Bloomproviding real-time data,

"You can't survive by keep-ing still. You can't just milk it," he says. And the future is TV. 'If you get some high-school kid with a camera outside Congress, the only delay will be the congressman pow-

Bloomberg's relentless 12-hours-a-day energy infects the whole organisation. "It is a high-energy place," says one employee. Staff milling around the free snack-bars watch one of their trilingual newscasters deliver a bulletin from an empty studio. Using a hidden keyboard, she controls her own Autocue and graph-ics. One remote-control camrest. No wonder the Independent on Sunday reporters were scared recently by in the market to produce their business pages.

In the middle of the threestorey nerve-centre of the Bloomberg empire is a new work of art. Titled Natural Progression, it has glass tentacles sprouting across the newsroom — a constant reminder of Bloomberg's

growing influence.
"My ex-wife used to say that I went on vacation five that I went on vacation five days a week and then did two days' work with the family," he recounts. "There's something to that. I still can't wait for tomorrow morning."

And Mike Bloomberg is not content to collapse at the end of a working day. He is on the town every night, on this particular night to celebrate the hirthday of his new ciriffrend.

birthday of his new girlfriend about whom he is unchar-acteristically coy, offering that she has left if too late in

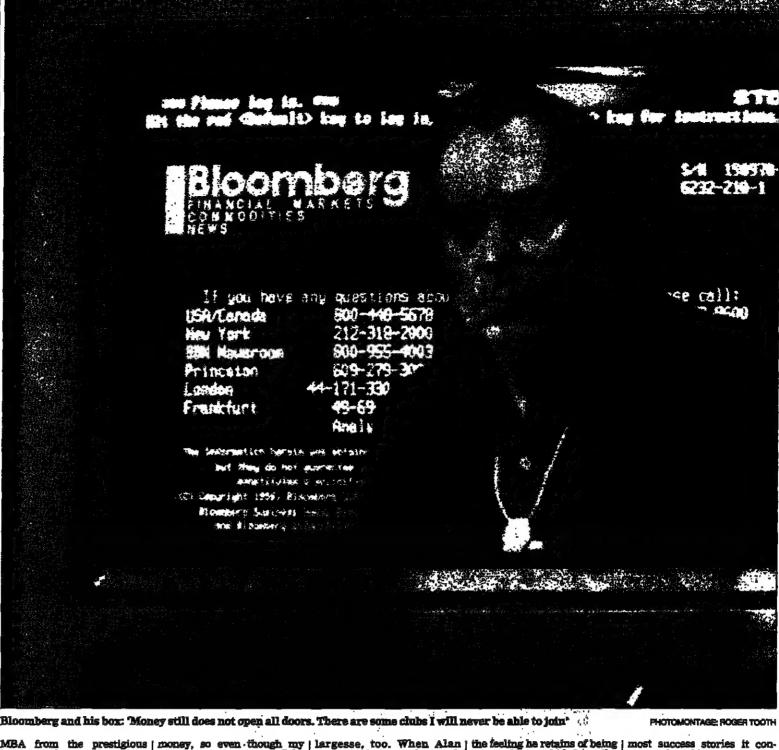
life to become a good skier.

"I like the theatre, dining and chasing women," he says.
"Let me put it this way: I am a single, straight, billionaire in Manhattan. What do you think? It's like a wet dream." Then, in a quieter moment, he says the end of his 20-year marriage a few years ago is the only real regret in his life.

him to ever-greater endeavour? Why oesn't he just have a rest (most people find they are exhausted after an hour with him)? "There are people who do things simply because they want to do them," he says. "I could have retired after I left Salomon's money than I could ever

spend — but I didn't." Part of his motivation stems, however, from a philmas Eve, Bloomberg was named America's thirtsenth most generous man — 10 places ahead of Ross Perot — after donating \$30 million to good causes during 1996.

"My great love is philan-thropy," he says. "Most of my money will be given away or go into trust funds for my daughter." Last year, he gave \$55 million to Johns Hopkins. This year he endowed his other alma mater, Harvard, with \$3 million to establish a er for a Nobel prize. "This chair in philanthropy. The guy is on \$50,000 a year, has a chair moves between depart-ments every two years, which fits his constantly moving prize," Bloomberg says, in a month, sit on dealing desks | philosophy. Bloomberg got an | amazement. "But it is my



'Tm always on the develop-

ment committee of things, never the artistic one," he jokes. "People know what I'm there for. And that's just According to his world-

view, government service or religious calling are philan-thropic simply because the pay is dirt-poor. His role is to earn as much as he can in the private sector, because that is where his talent lies, and fun-nel it to the deserving.

One of the scientists on a project at Hopkins, funded by Bloomberg, is working on a cancer cure and is a contendmy prize, too." His generosity does not stem from religious convic-tion — "after my bar mitzvah never went to temple again"

tancy was going under in the 1980s and he was worrying about the money outstanding on the lease of his Bloomberg - but does help him to justify the way he has devoted his

went to a state school and did not easily scale the walls of the lvy League colleges. up the agreement.
"Maybe one day you'll be in.

'My ex-wife used to say I went on vacation five days a week then did two days' work with the family'

from getting potentially fatal diarrhoea. "Knowing that, I go to sleep every night with a smile on my face," he says. Some of the powerful have go to sleep every night with a small to sleep every night with a small on my face," he says.

Some of the powerful have benefited from Bloomberg's smbitton is almost certainly

life to wealth-generation. He says his money stops 500,000 your desks," he told Green-Third World children going blind every year, two million the US Federal Reserve. the US Federal Reserve.

"Jeez, if only I'd known.
What I should have said is:

retiring. But he does fantasise about starting over. 'I do think that perhaps I should give it all up and set myself up with a shoe-shine stall to see if I could do it again, or whether it was just luck." The

tains a bit of both — betravs some insecurity in the middle-aged billionaire: Am I himself continually. The son of a bookmaker, Bloombe

really as good as I think I am?
And Bloomberg knows that
for a certain, WASPish segment of US society, he will
remain the little Jewish kid from Boston, despite — or perhaps because of — his wealth: "Money still does not open all doors. No society is totally meritocratic. There are some clubs I will never be able to join," he says with just a hint of bitterness.

But he finds consolation in the fluid money-oriented society that is New York. Unlike most wealthy people, he does not feign boredom with being famous and sought-after. see if I could do it again, or whether it was just luck." The fact that he cares whether it I mind? Are you kidding? I was luck or skill — and like absolutely love it."

Digital info empire built on boxes

HE Bloomberg empire is built on 75lb "Bloomberg boxes" which pipe information

which pipe information through two monitors to 67,000 users worldwide. writes Richard Thomas.

Subscribers receive, down a dedicated digital phone line, asset prices, and puotes.

In 1981, Michael Bloomberg spotted a niche for instantaneous data which allowed dealers to compare allowed dealers to compare products. His first crude machines, based on a com-puter program he devel-oped at Salomons, simply offered stock and bond

comparisons in terms of price and earnings. In the fast-paced dealing rooms, Bloomberg ma-chines soon took off, alongside traditional Reuters

wire services.
As markets grew in complexity, so did the boxes, which now have more than 4,000 functions. For most of 40 per cent a year — giving the company room, and cash, to move into other

By the end of the 1980s. Bloomberg realised that plain the data, to give money managers the stories behind the figures. Bloomberg poached Wall Street Journal reporter Matthew Winkler, who once called his new employer "profane", and set up Bloomberg Business News which provides wire stories to dealers and other media outlets, including newspapers, radio stations and TV.

Now there are 400 reporters on Bloomberg's books and the company's boxes pouring out news.

Bloomberg has established a business radio station in New York, which also provides news bulletins to 40 regional stations across the US. He publishes specialist newsletters and has just announced that he intends to produce business textbooks.

His television station is available to European sat-ellite and cable users. The US satellite channel is augmented by slots on public television.

Nort

rgbo

to keep the company on the move, even at the risk of overextending. "There are always threats to your posi-tion." he says. "The man who says he is secure is soon a poor man."

Waiting for IGC . . The livelihood of this peasant farmer in central Anatolia. Turkey, is likely to depend on tricky decisions by

Europe's career politicians

Enlargement will pose big questions for Europe



Mark Milner

OR the European Union, the coming year will be dominated by two issues: the intergovernmental conference and members' progress towards the criteria for monetary

Both are important issues the IGC is meant to provide a much-needed overhaul of the framework and structures within which EU business is conducted: 1997 is the year on which countries wishing to sign up for the single currency in 1999 will be judged. Neither the IGC nor Eco-

Britain, as usual, is already setting its face against many of the changes likely to come before the IGC. Politicians and diplomats in Brussels and the other European capitals are, rather obviously, pinning their hopes on a change of government. However, they may find that if, as the opinion polls suggest, Labour is the next party in office, there will be no sudden

olte-face on Europe. Nor is Britain alone in pon dering the problems ahead. The Dutch are less than en-thusiastic about common France and Denmark are scarcely keener on a common immigration policy. Some of the smaller countries, too, are bound to be worried by French and German plans to change the EU's weighted voting system — which would, in effect, give bigger countries

more say. The IGC process is meant to be concluded by the summer. Many think it will take longer than that. Even then, it may make less progress than hoped. Cynics are already muttering that it will be, in the words of one Brussels in-



(gift wrapping) than sub-

What is certain is that both the IGC negotiations and the efforts to maintain the budgetary disciplines needed to transform the often optimis-tic budgetary projections into

ment and enlargement. It could be argued that, without reform of the EU's institutions, the concept of enlarge-ment — opening the member-ship door to countries in solid performance will take central and eastern Europe, considerable effort — so confor example — is nothing siderable that there is a dandore than a chimera. The

ger two other crucial, related | point is a fair one, but reform | cannot be determined in an

those wishing to join the EU have to clear (and they will be considerable in number and difficulty) the EU. too, will have to help.

Look no further than the

reform (such as slashing the subsidies doled out under its provisions) there is little prospect of central and eastern Europe being allowed into the Union. Yet, across

Europe, farming lobbies wield formidable political clout. There will be no short-

issue cannot be decided on the basis of an internally ac-ceptable fudge without damaging the prospects for enlargement.

Many supporters of mone-

tary union will argue that the single currency will provide a single currency will provide a stimulus for jobs. Even those who are more sceptical believe the policies which must Look no further than the age of politicians prepared to will the end (enlargment), but who are more sceptical because of the key areas of IGC there may be rafter fewer lieve the policies which must scrutiny. Without radical prepared to will the means to

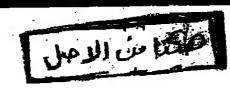
cation for the single currency are sound in themselves and will provide a stable economic framework which will, in turn, create sustainable growth and, thus, more employment.

Again, fair enough. But more needs to be done. The problem of unemployment is not simply cyclical. Europe faces structural problems, too.

Labour market flexibility may help (at least at the lower end of the pay/skills scale), but increased and better education and training would be a more productive option. Former steel workers do not become software specialists just because they are pre-pared to work for next to nothing.

This is not simply a ques-

tion of a new year wish-list.
There are dangers in the EU
becoming too focused on its own, immediately pressing, concerns. Unless it pays attention, and is seen to pay at-tention, to the questions of enlargement and unemploy-ment, the EU risks being perceived as exclusive, in the



THE REAL PICTURE/Philips' futuristic new semi-conductor plant relies on scientific Notebook excellence and hi-tech cleanliness. Photograph: Don McPhee/Words: Martyn Halsall



EW places have a and feet in moon-boots, 70 Philips Semiconductors in Stockport, Cheshire, where a £100 million investment programme is set to double output for the 21st century. Masked and gowned.

engineers and production staff are each shift stocking and testing a "clean room" with an atmosphere 100 times purer than a hospital operating theatre.

Clinical cleanliness is the heart of the new yital, said operations man-245 million building pro-

tiny piece of material, in-visible to the eye, could de-stroy production of a batch of semiconductors worth up to £10,000."

which set as the electronic switches of the modern everything from cars' central locking devices to washing machines, micro-waves and radio cassettes. Every piece of equipment,

ager Gary Muuro. "Even a | ducing the silicon chips | from special paper to ion implanters costing £1.5 mil-lion each, has to be "wiped Air is changed every 10 seconds in the windowless, white-tiled production which have air-locks

21 degrees centigrade by a cooling system equivalent to 9,200 fridges.

created in the next four years at a plant aiming to triple turnover and become one of the top five semicon-ductor plants in the world.

Tories given double bonus

Home buyers and consumers begin to show feel-good spirit

.

And the second second

200

 $r = v \cdot r \cdot e^{-2\pi i r}$

.

lection hopes were boosted yesterday by further evidence of a buoyant bousing market and souring consumer confidence.

The latest review of the housing sector by the Nationwide building society yesterday showed that prices rose by 8 per cent in 1996 and are set to increase by a further growth in 1997 followed six said: "Although it was from a per cent next year.

A separate study, published ary sales and says that antial improvement in the hous-

today, predicts that the January sales are likely to be the biggest on rebord, registering HE Government's the fastest annual growth since the boom of 1988.

"Rising incomes, end-year redundancy mean that people have both the means and the confidence to spend," said Mark Pragnell, author of the retail report for the indepen-dent Centre for Economics

and Rusiness Research. The study notes that sales

But the Nationwide's survey, which showed house prices up 8.5 per cent in Decamber compared with a year ago, provided evidence that a key component of the feelgood factor was in place. The Nationwide said that

0.3 per cent from November's level on a seasonally adjusted basis, the substantial upturn in confidence meant the housing recovery would strengthen. Philip Williamson, the society's marketing and commercial director, 1997 and beyond."

Rising house prices would lift hundreds of thousands of people out of negative equity; the society's quarterly review predicted. Fewer than half of the 1.7 million homeowners whose properties were worth remain, and Nationwide says the blight will all but disappear over the next two years. Negative equity is dispro-portionately high in the South-east, and marked price growth in London has helped

ease the hardship. Although price rises could be as high as 15 per cent in some parts of the country, in-

more owners to put up a "for sale" sign. This should also ease the

bottleneck which the industry says has caused price inflation of up to 30 per cent in some housing hotspots as supply fell far short of demand rards the end of 19

More properties are on the market, so the 8 per cent price growth this year would not be matched in 1997, the report said, although it described the 7 per cent prediction as evidence of a "soundly based" recovery with less danger of a 1980s-style runaway boom. This will be "underpinned

other good year will be ing market, and we expect creases should be more higher levels of confidence" needed if the spirit of the further growth, particularly evenly spread next year, as which will offset a predicted 1980s is to return in full force. In transaction volumes, into rising confidence encourages reduction in special incentive cashbacks and discounts of fered by mortgage lenders.

The strong growth in 1996 against the poor 1995 performance was boosted by the increases" and should be fur-ther fuelled as the round of budget feed through in 1997. Further evidence of consumer optimism is provided today by a survey from Ber-clays Mortgages which shows one in two homeowners nov believes the value of their

N THE world of banking, house is set to increase. There was also a rise in the number of people intending to move by excellent affordability and this year.

Northern readies the white flag 'Titanic' pensions

Patrick Donores City Editor

ORTHERN Electric looks set to hoist the white flag in its long-running battle against a 2782 million bid from CE Electric, by advising all its share-holders to accept the US predator's 650p-a-share offer.

Northern's statement is expected to persuade several leading investors to abandon plans to mark their opposition to the bld by retaining a minority holding in the take

The Prudential, one of

hour attempt to drum up City support for Northern's independence, offering to buy back at the offer price shares pledged to the US bidder. After the offer closed on Saturday, several institutions let it be known that they were not prepared to accept the CE offer. Although they did not have enough shares to over-turn the deal, they could have

retained a dissident minority

holding. A spokesman for Northern yesterday confirmed that a statement was pending. Although the company is expected to advise its shareholders to accept the offer, Northern's largest sharehold- Northern declined to specuers, mounted an eleventh- late on what would be said.

day, it appeared to have lost the battle because it had tust under 50 per cent of the vote. However, the bid deadline was extended to give the Takeover-Panel time to inves-

tigate the circumstances under which Northern's broker was paid a £250,000 performance fee. This involved an extension of the bid closure deadline to last Saturday. In the meantime, late-lodged votes pushed up the number of shares pledged to the CE Electric camp to just over 50 per cent. The Takeover Panel refused

CR Electric managed to to reinstate the earlier deed-take over Northern by the line, which would have en-skin of its teeth. When the first deadline closed on Fri-its independence. in order to demonstrate their opposition, dissident shareholders had been ex-pected to refuse to sell to CE Electric.

The bidder needs to win at least 90 per cent of the shares to carry out a compulsory purchase of the remaining

In the meantime, City pres-sure is mounting on the Take-over Panel to tighten its rules. Firmer guidelines were needed to prevent a rerun of the confusion surrounding the Northern situation, an institutional investor said.

policy presages national disaster

Richard Miles

ABOUR yesterday warned of an impending pensions disaster. It published figures showing that millions face poverty in retirement because of a huge shortfall in funding. Urging the Government to come clean on the scale of the

crisis, the shadow pensions minister, John Denham, accused the Conservatives of "betraying tomorrow's pen-

under-funding on a grand scale in both company schemes and personal pen-sions, with employees of smaller firms and women

sion arrangement.

from a big company.

Holders of personal pen-sions — introduced in April 1968 for workers not covered by a company scheme — are ingly towards a retirement di-no better off. Department of saster. The Tories have be-



such plans contribute £50 or ess per month, giving a fina pension of just £2,000 a year. More worryingly, says Labour, 23 per cent of all working adults — some six million people — make no pension provision at all, and over half of all women — 10 million adults — are likely to suffer financial hardship when they retire. Women who take a career break of four years to have children will retire on a personal pension worth a third less than a colleague who takes no breaks.

The shortfall in pension funding affects all regions, with East Anglia hit hardest. There, two-thirds of all work ers can expect to suffer finan-cial hardship in their old age. However, the largest number of people facing an impov-erished retirement live in the North-west, where 1.9 million

workers are likely to have made inadequate provision. "Our new analysis shows that Tory pension policy is like a pensions Titanic." Mr Denham said. "Millions of people are sailing unknow-ingly towards a retirement dia'worrom's

Smart money's thinking global



Alex Brummer

S WE move towards the the final years of this century, businesses and nations need to think global. It may seem that there is nothing new in this for Britain — after all, this country has been a global trading power since the 17th century. power since the 17th century. However, as the nation and British business have shed their colonial past, they have become increasingly narrelationships with North America and Europe, rather than take the adventurist, internationalist approach which made these islands an economic powerhouse and a

world power.

The goodwill from Africa to
Latin America and the Pacific Rim, built up over centuries, is being allowed to wither. Our biggest corporations such as BT think they are going global when they make deals with a US telecoms group like MCI. But the really inventive way forward would have been a link with another UK-based firm, Cable & Wire less, which would have given BT access to the world's fast-

Geo-economics has displaced the geopolitics of the Cold War era as the main driving force of international relations and commerce. The time when the three largest economic groupings — North America, Japan and Europe could look to each other for their political, financial and trading relationships is passing. The creation of relationships with the emerging market economies will be as important to Western economies as it is to the developing countries themselves.

Growth rates in the emerging market countries are expected to reach 6.2 per cent in 1997, against the mediocre 2.5 per cent growth for the West (according to the IMF). This disparity in growth rates and opportunity is sucking in capital, investment and expertise from the industrialmarkets. Amid this seachange, commerce has to think in global terms.

traditionally domestic in-stitutions such as Deutsche Bank of Germany and ABN-Amro of the Netherlands are currently engaged in a world-wide expansion which has left older-style colonial institutions such as Lloyds Bank in Latin America in the dust as its European mainland coun-terparts have backed the new geo-economic order. Lloyds TSB has become so preoccupied with becoming a domi-nant consumer bank deliver-ing mortgages and insurance products that it has neglected its global roots and strong traditions in Latin America Barclays has become so ob-sessed with *not* making the mistakes of British banks in property and abroad that it is failing to use its enormous pull from South Africa to the re-establish itself as a power for the next century. Only HSBC is behaving like a genu-inely global bank, seeking to add holdings in countries such as Mexico to an already

like BMW have recognised trial, have so far rediscovered the same trend. They have the global gospel.

learnt to grow closer to their markets. This does not mean sitting in Munich thinking up ever-better models. It means taking the Munich kit into new markets and being prepared to think global on a long-term, basis. The engines for the next generations of BMW/Rover will be built in Latin Americs and in the Midlands in Britain, not simply because costs are lower, but because the growing South American and European markets can best be served in this way over the

next quarter-century. The contrast between a commercial company, such as Rover, and BMW is remark-able. Rover focused all its attention on the limited UK market, losing its footbold in the former colonies and the Far East. Trading companies like inchcape, with a strong franchise in the Pacific Basin, rowly focused, preferring to franchise in the Pacific Basin, concentrate on the domestic found they had to substitute market and comfortable overseas marques for the

British ones to survive.
The end-of-year merger be tween Boeing and McDonnell Douglas also recognises the importance of global markets. Aircraft may continue to be designed and quality-tested in Seattle and St Louis, but with the emergence of a more global economy, it is likely that much more of the plane will be constructed closer to the market. Eventually, even the most sensitive parts of the kit may be built in Japan, China or Korea — if that is where the big international orders are coming from.

HE customers for new planes, the airlines, like to talk of globalisation and have forged hundreds of bilateral alliances across the globe. But the reality is different. In many emerging mar-ket countries that think nothing of allowing Citibank and JP Morgan to control the larger part of their banking assets, and where the popula-tion is only too happy to be seen driving around in Nissans and VWs — symbols of financial and manufacturing globalisation — the govern-ments are satisfied to operate flag-carriers with limited route structures and result. Some carriers, such as Brit-

ish Airways, have talked fre-quently about globalisation. But much of BA's expansion has been based on its strengths, many of them built up during the colonial era. It service inside Europe but with limited success. More been on strengthening its links across the Atlantic lines alliance, rather than be-coming truly international by developing, for instance, its own hubs in emerging markets. It has, however, recognised that some airline services such as ticketing are the removal of much of its reservations and ticketing op-erations to the Indian subcontinent. Indeed, BA's current chief executive, Robert Ayling, tends to view the company more as a franchise, such as Coca Cola, than as an institution which runs planes from London to the rest of the

Financial and commercial bitions, from ING Barines to Unilever and the Kuwlati Investment Office, feel that they need to have a base in the City of London to conduct their foreign exchange, Euro-bond financing, takeover and other business. This is held up as a glowing example of London's claim of being the world's most important business centre. What a pity, then, that only a very limited impressive network number of British corpora-Specialist car companies tions, financial and indus-

Rescued from receivership this year by Intria, a Malay

wanted to sell its coal opera-

tions to Rencoal Inc., a unit of

the privately-held Renco

Costain, which won the co-

tract to build the controver-

lion its one-third interest in

Costain quits from coal and property

Tony May

COSTAIN, the interna-tional mining, engineeron December 10 that it ing and construction company yesterday overcame opposition from rebel share-Group, for about \$47 million including \$13 million of debt. holders to win approval for the sale of its US coal and London property interests.

The board told an extraorsial Newbury bypass, also said it would sell for £23.4 mildinary general meeting that the sale of the assets "reprethe Spitalfields development site in London to Malaysia's sents the last major step" in its plan to focus on engineering and construction.

Mr Alisdair Stark, chairman of The Costain Independent Shareholders Association, which claims to speak for 400 of the group's 15,000 small shareholders, criticised the group's "appalling finan-cial record". He said: "The wise investor is he who has

Metacorp.
Cash from the sale will be used to repay debt, fund \$20 million in US obligations and meet future capital needs. Costain shares were suspended at 47p last month at the company's request. Trad-ing in them will not resume until after the completion of the asset sales.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Austrelia 2.04

but a single share."

Germany 2.53 Germany 2.53 Germany 2.53 Hong Kong 12.68 India 53.83 Ireland 0.98 Israel 5.47 **Cyprus 0.764** Denmark 9.72 Finland 7.71

Italy 2,511 Malta 0,588 Netherlands 2,84 New Zealand 2,31 Norway 10,57 Portugal 255,95 Saudi Arable 5,25

Singapore 2.29 South Africa 7.54 Bosun 213.25 Sweden 11.31 Switzerland 2.18

Laporte to detach adhesives units

Tony May

APORTE, the speciality chemicals group, is to graise £110 million from the sale of most of its European adhesives and sealants operation to Elf Atochem. The company also expects

to realise between £90 million and £110 million for its North American adhesives and sealants businesses. Jim Leng, the company's chief executive said: "These businesses are doing well so

we're fairly confident about margins. achieving a successful sale in the first half of 1997. There is certainly no ques-

tion of a fire sale of these op-While the sale to Elf will eliminate group debt, a successful sale of the US operations would leave the group with net cash and in a good position from which to ex-

The European sale will

egy is focused on speciality chemicals and performance materials where Laporte can achieve the objectives of market leadership and long-term profit growth.
"This sale is consistent

with that strategy and provides additional resources to enhance this programme and generate value for our share-"The adhesives and seal-

ants operations do not fit in with this strategy as they are largely consumer and tradeled businesses with lower "However, there will still

be enough steam left in the engine to drive the ongoing businesses forward." He said the company had raised just more than £170 million since June and given increased focus to Laporte by reducing the number

of operating locations by nearly a third. In 1995, the businesses which are now being sold made an operating profit be-fore exceptional items of result in a goodwill write-off of some \$50 million and an exceptional gain of about \$23 million.

Mr Leng said: "Our strat-

Spider-Man publisher files for bankruptcy

Mark Tran is New York

PIDER-Man yesterday got caught in a finan-cial web as Marvel Entertsinment Group, the comics publisher, filed for bankruptcy protection.

was seen as a manoeuvr by billionaire Ronald Perelman, who owns 80 per cent of Marvel Entertainment, to keep control of the tronbled producer of comic books and trading cards Marvel has been at the centre of a tug of war between Mr Perelman and corporate raider Carl Icahn.

Under a proposed finan-cial restructuring plan, Mr Perelman's Andrews Group will invest \$365 million (£224 million) in new equity in Marvel, allowing the publisher to make toy designer Toy Biz a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marvel. Marvel will also receive \$160 million from a group of lenders to finance its new strategic investment programme.

Marvel was bought by Mr

1993. He then paid too much for a couple of trad-ing card companies to fold into the Marvel group. Bond prices in Marvel col-lapsed last month after Mr The bankruptcy filing Perelman's organisation said that Marvel was in much worse shape than anyone had realised and was having trouble paying its bills. To complicate matters, Mr Icahn has been acquiring bonds in Marvel in a bid for control.

> and chief executive of Mar-vel, said that bondholders had prevented plans for a recapitalisation without going to court. He said that bondholders were asked more than a month ago to waiving certain restricure to reach agreement with them delayed the publisher from moving ahead with development plans in TV and film properties, theme restaurants and computer software.

Perchasa just before the peak of the investment craze in comic books in

Scott Sassa, chairman support Marvel's plans by

"betaying uniorrows pen-sioners" and likened their pensions policy to the Titanic.
"Millions of people are not covered by employers' pen-sion schemes: others are only making thy contributions to personal pensions, or are making no second pension provision at all," he said. Labour's analysis, based on information collated from a number of surveys, reveals

> Of the million firms with fewer than 100 staff — the bulk of private employers fewer than four out of 10 employees are covered by a pension scheme. Seventy per cent of companies with five or ewer employees offer no pen-

Even employees lucky enough to belong to a com-pany scheme may eke out their final years on the breadline. Most members of a small company scheme receive about half the employer's contribution they could expect

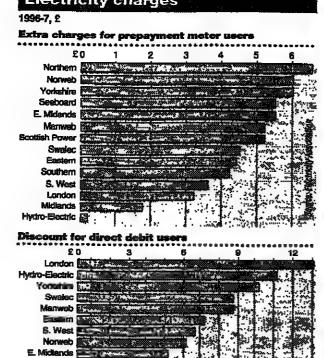
Social Security figures show trayed that more than 30 per cent of pensioners, just like they the 5.5 million people with have betrayed today's."

Bloomberg: know-all billionaire, page 10

The coming spend, spend year, page 11

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian



CHRIS BARRIE looks at the social repercussions of a free energy market in America to project the outcome of the full privatisation of Britain's gas and electricity industries



Switched off in mean street

tricity and gas supplies are a At night apartment windows are mostly in darkness, al-though a few flicker and glow in the light of kerosene lamps. cooked on potentially hazardous portable stoves. And the occupants wear coats, even when they are in bed.

Welcome to the world of energy deregulation, where the land of the free demands that all households pay the price for the energy they use. Black ghettos in 1996 have more to do with lack of heat and light than skin colour, although poverty remains their defin-ing feature.

Impossible in Britain? Not at all, say academics and consumer groups who specialise in the energy business. In fact, it is happening already. the electricity and gas mar-kets are thrown open to competition, the poor here could find themselves even worse off while the affluent bask in the glow of lower electricity and gas prices. Last year local authorities

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United Kingdom...

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TERE are streets | households and their probnew light on the impact of primany households are worse off in a world governed by

competition.

The survey found that more than half of households using pre-payment meters had "self-disconnected" their supply of gas or electricity, which had een cut off because they had problems buying or finding the tokens to feed the meter. For many, this so-called voluntary interruption of their power or heating supply

lasts a weekend or longer. The survey also shows that families with very small children form the majority of those unable to manage their token-meters without being disconnected. It says: "In other words, the greater difficulties produced by the system are concentrated upon the most vulnerable households."

Two groups, it says, are most at risk — those house-holds containing someone unable to work because of health difficulties and those lamilies with a child aged under five in the household.

Their struggle is cumula a study into low-income | tive. Low-income, single-

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budget for a stockpile of pre-payment tokens and week-ends in the cold and without hot food inevitably follow.

payment meter, too. The official line is to use

statistics to sweep this problent under the carpet. Minis-ters preach the benefits of privatisation. The gas and lectricity industries point to try watchdogs — Clare Spot-

longer a serious

only one meter into which scarce resources. Those pay-ing for their electricity this way will almost certainly be paying for their gas by pre-

connection figures which purthat disconnections are should no longer be

British example. 1987/88 to last year's tally of 14,500 households. Similarly, disconnections ordered by the regional electricity compa-

nies, privatised in 1990, have fallen. The gas and electricity industries indulge in regular self-congratulatory back-slapping over this achievement. But in reality the disconnection scoresheet may be as bad

as ever—or worse.

The problem is that no one knows, because the households in question are deemed to have disconnected themselves voluntarily by failing to feed their voracious me-ters. Industry regulators, however, seem content to accept this position at face value — that consumers apparently benefit from prepayment meters because there is no possibility of fall-

ing into debt But for the Government and the power companies there are other, less publi-clsed, benefits to this system. Self-disconnection is hidden because it does not require official action. The companies benefit by charging up-front these customers, the poorest, for their vital energy supplies and escape the costs of having to chase these people for pay-ment. No other customer is treated this way.

The Government's desire for favourable statistics on energy poverty neatly squares with the industries' goal of minimising costs of coping with social problems. So it is not surprising that gas and electricity companies are keen to install prepay-

than 3.2 million, and this year it is expected to be close to four million. British Gas has also increased its prepayment meters, with more than

they must feed a share of are installed in the homes of in advance. culty paying their bills. Yet these people are also expected to pay a higher standing charge for their gas and elec-tricity than other, more afflu-

In an attitude that is both

The plight of the poor is a cause of serious concern among consumer groups, who fear the gap between the poor and affluent will widen in 1998 when the entire power sector is opened to competition

cut the number of compulsory tiswoode and Professor line. Consumer groups scoff disconnections dramatically, Stephen Littlechild respectively— allow companies to from the cost of removing 1987/88 to last year's tally of levy higher charges for supsome four million meters, the levy higher charges for sup-plying the poor because past debts have to be recovered and the costs of installing and administering these prepayment meters is, firms argue, higher than running direct debit customers' accounts.

In electricity this surcharge is levied through a higher standing charge. With gas, consumers pay a higher

The result is a gulf in energy costs between rich and poor. According to the Elec-tricity Association, the average customer on direct debit pays £268 a year. Electricity paid by quarterly bill costs £273, while prepayment me-

N GAS, a direct-debit customer pays a daily standing charge of 9.02p and a tariff of 1.433p per kilowatt hour. A cus-tomer paying through a prepayment meter is charged 4.01p as a standing charge, and 2.173p per kWh, falling to 1.611p after the first £24 has been spent. Each quarter, the higher rate is reinstituted. Prof Littlechild, director-

general of Offer, may side with the electricity industry on these charges but his own regional representatives do not. The consumer committees have been lobbying him to call a half to this surcharge on the poor. Yvonne Constance, who

heads the regional committe chairmen, says high charges mean the poor are proving very profitable to regional electricity companies. Ms ment meters. Five years ago, there were 1.9 million electricity prepayment meters in ures, believe that the indus-

eral is showing no interest in capping the surcharge or doing away with it." Yet these customers not only pay higher charges, they also pay Ms Constance adds that the most expensive customer is

the one who pays a quarterly bill late. Yet only one com-pany, Hydro-Electric in Scot-land, charges these customers more. Hydro's prepayment customers also pay virtually the same as other households. It is a practice she would like to see more widely adopted.

> why Prof Litt-lechild should be so persuaded by the industry's argument. Industry sources suggest that he has taken seriously the com-panies' threat to rip out the prepayment meters unless he falls into

political fallout would be enormous, they say.

But would it? With an election in the offing, new Labour's energy policy is to argue that competition must

be made to drive down prices Poverty features as little in the party's energy lexicon as it does on other matters. That may change. The plight of the poor now is beginning to cause serious concern among consumer groups, who fear that the discrepancy between prepay-ment and direct-debit custom-

ers — poor and affluent — will widen even further from

1998, when the domestic gas

and electricity markets are opened to competition. In an analysis for the Insti-tute for Public Policy Research of the economics of the electricity market, Professor Catherine Waddams Price warns that low-income house holds will face higher charges as competition is introduced and companies are forced to unwind hidden subsidies.

As companies vie for the "best" customers - the good payers — so the costs of supplying the rest have to be spread across a dwindling group. Prof Waddams Price says: "Competition could bring real hardship to some vulnerable households and make it increasingly difficult for them to clear their debts and move into a lower cost payment category."

Warning of a threat to social cohesion, she points out that state benefits may even fall just as these house-

parent families already find | British homes. Lest year, that | try is overstating the cost of | meeting average expenditure. the economics of daily life dif- number had jumped to more | installing and running pre- "If competition reduces aver-

tomers relatively little gas may also ters free of charge if easier suffer unless competition dramatically drives down costs. These consumers will not benefit unless the costs of supplying customers fall by between 20 and 30 per cent a tall order.

Sue Slipman, director of the Gas Consumers Council, says generous" in the past over supplies to the elderly and poor, especially in winter. Faced with stiff competition from new gas companies, it will toughen its stance on disconnections. The company cannot afford to be left with a

rump of poor customers.
Ms Slipman also points out that British Gas's trading and supply business, Centrica, is no longer run by the old style of manager. Today's board is more commercial and focused on turning the group into a profitable business. There will be little room for passengers along the way.

vive the competitive market sumers to pay in small amounts at post offices? Will

who consume using gas? Will they move me R FENNELL also believes that poorer households

to exploit the benefit of competition. To do well, householders must compare tariffs, understand the contractual terms and cope with salesman. Experience in the south-west gas trials sug-gests that these households are proving slower than their more affluent counterparts to sign new deals. In fact, the gas and electric-

ity companies support some of these fears, if not the solu-tions. Yorkshire Electricity has said that poor household could lose out in 1998. British Gas has warned of much the same. Some observers have suggested that these fears have less to do with social conscience than with a desire

the best customers and leav-ing them to cope with onerous

Unfortunately the proposed rules for 1998 will do little to poorer households. Ms Con-stance says there will be little panies to cut the costs of sup

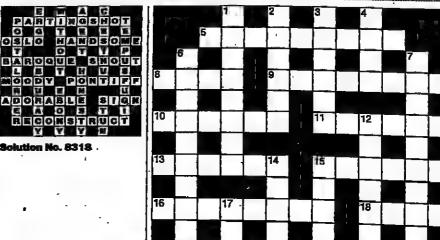
plying them. Worse, an electricity company competing in the home region of a rival will need to use prepayment meter in-stalled by that rival if it is to sell power into the house. Be-cause it owns that meter, the right to be consulted by its rival on one of only two tar-

Kathy Evan

Ms Constance predicts that this will stifle any desire among companies to seek out poorer households and offer them lower charges: "If you cannot offer your own tariff and must talk to rival compa-

nies, why bother at all?"
Why bother? The words apply to swaths of America's inner cities. The issue facing British policymakers in 1997 is whether they can devise a market structure that is tive, compassionate as well as discriminating. The omens so

Quick Crossword No. 8319



Across

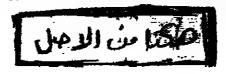
- Snare (4)
- Bystander (8) Countless (6)
- 13 Angle (6) 15 Rush — job (6) 16 Island off North Wales
- 18 Cook in a closed vessel 19 Spotted dog (9)

Down

- 1 Crusade (8) 2 Wrapping for corpse (6) 3 Defer indefinitely (6)
- 4 Unfasten ruin (4) 6 Racing dog (9) 7 Game dog (9)
- 12 One living in the French capital (8) Begin again (6) 15 Prairle wolf (6) 17 Soft heavy metal --

electric wire (4)

27 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 336 248. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS



Irdia

tree



They go for the money and the fun. They forget, report **Sarah Boseley** and **Kathy Evans**, that it may become an invitation to a beheading

Expatriate games

AUDI Arabla's dry heat hits a blinding 120 degrees during the day, and plummets to 40 below at night. The desert kingdom is a place of wild exiremes — where alcohol, drugs and the mixing of the sexes are utterly forbidden in public and yet where parties rage privately thronspout the night

where parties rage privately throughout the night.
For the 30,000 British workers living there, including hundreds of young, single nurses. Saudi is alternately a place of grim oppression and high, illicit excitement. At times, it can all go very badly wrong.

wrong.

It has before, when Helen Smith was found dead in 1979 beside the body of a Dutchman after an all-night party. She was gruesomely impaled on iron railings under the balcony of a British surgeon's flat. Now it has gone wrong for Lucille

McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, the two British nurses charged with murdering their Australian colleague, Yvonne Gilford, who was found dead on Christmas Eve in her room at the King Fahd medical complex in Dhahran. The pair had shared a room with Yvonne, a senior theatre nurse. She had been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered.

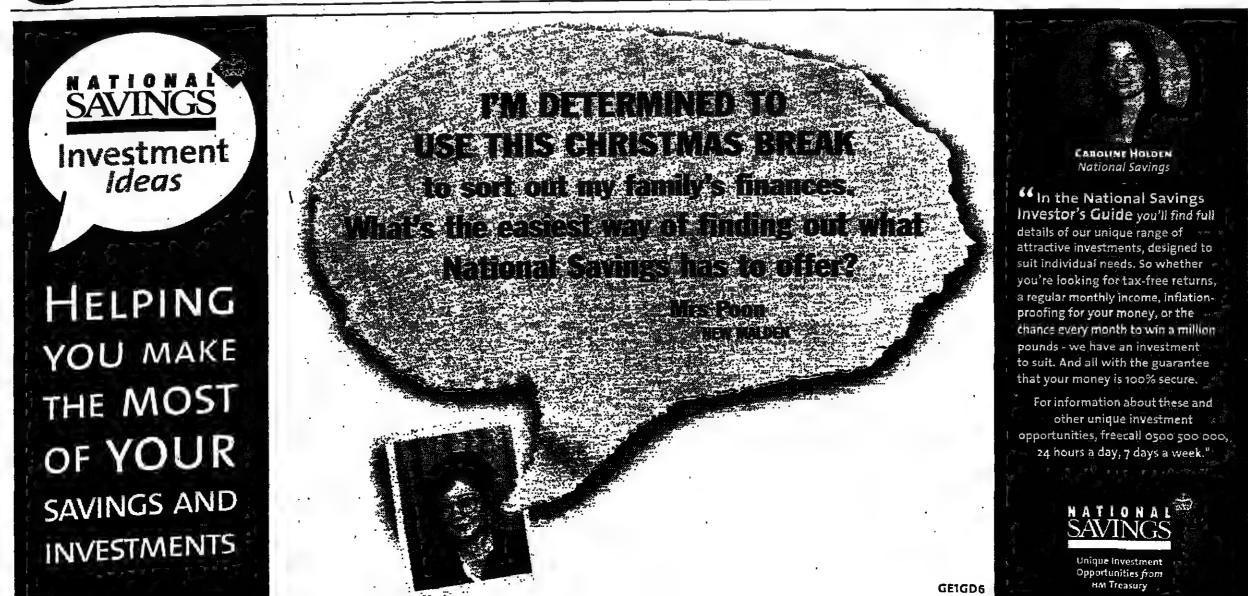
Such disasters cause public and private worlds to collide in a clash of cultures. In 1979 Penny and Richard Arnot spent some months in jail for holding the illegal drinks party where Helen Smith was a guest; they narrowly escaped a flogging. McLauchlan and Parry face higher penalties: if convicted under Sharia law they could be beheaded. For the most part, the Saudi authorities avert their eyes from the expats' extra-

the Brits, Americans, Scandinavians and the rest toe the moral line on the streets, they can do what they like in the privacy of their own homes.

It suits both cultures to cordon off the potentially permicious foreign influence in closed expats' compounds — fenced off with high walls and heavy security on the gates. On the Western side of the fence, the compound acts like a safety valve, where expatriates can let their hair down without falling foul of Saudi law and ending up in jail causing diplomatic embarrassment to both their governments and the Saudi authori-

and Parry face higher penalties: if convicted under Sharia law they could be beheaded. For the most part, the Saudi authorities avert their eyes from the expats' extracular activities. As long as

The compounds began in the forties, with the construction of the Aramco oil company head quarters in Dhahran. Here thousands of Americans were able to live virtually an Ameri-page 14



VEREYOU .

Quiz answers

Princess Diana to her children's namy, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, instructing that she had had an abortion.

had had an abortion.

2. The Ford Motor Company, which doctored a photograph of company amployees to remove black faces.

3. It is the exiscitive school to which Shadow Health Secretary Harriet Harman sent her son Joe, undermining Labour

sent her son Joe, undermining Labour Party policy, which opposes selection.

4. Fill Houtemann. The former nude Miss Belgium is the only one not to have been lithed with a member of the Critish Royal Family, being linked (over 40 pages of an Italian magazine) with Daniel Ducruet, husband of Princess Stephanle of Monaco.

5. (c) Coranne.

5. (c) Cazanne.
6. (b) John Prescott.
7. Michael Jackson, who divorced Lise-Marie Presley and married Debbie Rowe,

8. (b) A Martian meteoritie, which suppos-edly provided evidence of life on Mars. 9. (b) The Czech Republic, who lost 2-1 to

Germany. 10. Trevor Nunn, the new artistic director

of the National Theatre. 11. Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secre-

11. Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, who was given the Scott report on the arms-to-Iraq affair just three-and-a-half hours before the Government issued its statement. Tory, officiels had had the report for eight days.

12. (d) San Marino, which had failed to turn up for the signing of the peace accord which ended the 30 Years' War in 1648.

3. Bob Dole. US voters preferred Bill

mother Peggy. 15. Mei B, Mei C, Victoria, Emma and

How you rate

0-4 Liga

5-9 Jacks

Clinton's "bridge to the future". 14. (a) The Gallaghers, according to their

who was beering his child.

Them on them

The global view

Americans are flocking back to a century-old regimen that has failed them repeatedly in the past: the high-protein, high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet. This regimen was first promulgated in 1863 by a London undertaker named William Banting. It seems to resurface periodically under different rubrics. each time capturing the diet-book dollars of gullible Americans. New York Times

One of the exhibition highlights is the Mem-bers' Gallery — animal penis specimens ranging from the humble domestic cat to the well-endowed

Bull Shark. Possessing two penises, measuring up to 30 centimeters each, it is not called the Bull Shark for nothing. Sydney Morning Herald on an Australian Museum exhibition.

The coming year in Las Vegas will begin as every New Year has for nearly a decade - with the opening of yet another glgantic gambling den. New York New York cuts through the dry desert air with a crisp ailhounte of the Manhatian skyline, complete with replicas of the Chrysler and Empire State buildings, plus a roller-coaster and a quarter-size Brooklyn bridge.

Us on us

The British view

The IRA has a clear choice. It can plunge this province over the abyss by a return to terror. or it can see sense and call a ceasefire. Violence has tailed lamentably to solve any of our problems. anwhile it is vital that the loyalist paramilitaries and are not goaded into further attacks. ast Telegraph

The pessimism among bunt followers at their Boxing Day meets that this may be their last is not only premature; it may also be entirely misplaced. It is difficult to believe that a Labour government gain-ing power for the first time in 18 years would devote much energy to abolishing hunting in its early years. The battle over hunting is far from over. The Western Mail

If you live in North-cost Wales you will be familiar with the surname of Zychlin . . . Zychlin is the last name in the phone book and because of this has generated a lot of interest in the county over the years. So much so, British Telecom inserted a false name to appear last in the book to deter nuisance callers contactin Jack and Vera Zychlin from Mold. Mrs Zychlin says calls are made to the house through the day and night. Flintshire Evening Leader



Name of the state of the state

DECAY

could go without snapping.
She was sending her son to a slabspratung rechool united from the family inspects a way of sections; the product condition the lustrant of the product conditions.

If you as application a sample of line to the state of the section of the state of the section.

sample of houses the biotic New Labourism in action as the Tories could wish firm yet aministing was almost the last state, warmen of the year for Blain from then on John Major's Government to attitude the slow trocess of the state of the slow trocess. the year. It was me to the split dwer Supope that exemplified the decay of 18 years of Conservative rule. Other stuff was falling apart.

ence in the Atlanta Theples 15 midule wor.

PHOTOMONTAGE BY ROGER TOOTH

Olympics.—If medals won, pulsing us first below Belar us in the table.— may not assister a jot first is not consister a spirit of a buoyand, leading society.

After employments, said of a Coines reportedly is: (12 million bones for ristings. And perhaps openident of societal docay illing even that is abother childing trend. Then panie, but has anyon

The apocalypse they believe

in is not the end of the world but a passage from this world

probably the result of a feud within the Order of the Solar Temple. The 16 people who died last year were not obey-

ing some message from the

es in the previous mas-

grave. They were key wit-

sacras and I believe they

were murdered for their

Mr Chaumeil, who has

written one of many French

Solar Temple, claims to have discovered the names of nine

other people whose lives may still be in danger. Jean Vuarnet, a former

French slalom champion who lost his wife, Edith, and youngest son, Patrick, in the

1994 murders, fears more

murders: "Jouret's hold on my wife was powerful, like

cancer. She would lie to me

about having ceased to go to meetings but money would

disappear. I think it is very

dangerous to assume that the Order of the Solar Temple

has obliterated itself. That

sect is still very much alive and could be preparing to

ooks on the Order of the

"The massacres in Canada and Switzerland in 1994 were

8. What is this? (a) The Stone of Destiny (b) A Martian mateorite (c) The Rock of Gibralta A Rolling Street

up in Euro '967 (a) England (b) The Czech Republic (c) Bulgaria (d) Albania

and luvvie is a dirty wo

peges?

12. Sweden finally nced the co of hostilities after 300 years, with which country? (a) Russia (b) Finland (c) Denmark d) San Marino

"bridge to the past"? 14. "They are nice oughtful lads who love their mother." Who were the caring two? (a) The Gallaghers (b) The Maxwells (c) The Charitons

of the Spice Girls?

Signs of life from the cult that kills

This week last year December 23, 1995

HE DISCOVERY of 10 burnt corpses, lying in a circle in a French Alpine clearing, raised fears that followers of the Order of the Solar Temple doomsday sect had staged a new suicide pact, modelled on that which claimed 53 lives in Canada and Switzerland in 1994.

But it was not suicide More likely according to two new investigations, the 13 adults and three children who died in the early hours of December 16 last year and wure discovered a week later were murdered after beinglured to an outdoor ritual

At 1am on December 16, the 16 people had apparently willingly left their cars in a ski resort car park near the village of Saint-Pierre deble. The victims, including a doctor and the wife and son. of a former French skiing a mile through thick pine woods and mittled down

around a camp fire.
Arnaud Bédat, a Swiss
Journalist, believes the victims thought they were being called to witness an



people had died at Cheiry in Switzerland and five had died at Morin Heights, north of Montreal. All had been one of the late founders of the sect. Instead they were drugged and shot by two of

their number, both serving French police officers. Interpol under five aliases and linked to money-launderng networks in France. Switzerland, Canada and Australia, had died with 24 others on October 4, 1994, at Salvan in Switzerland. Among the 24 was Luc Jouret, the Belgian guru of

the Order of the Solar

Temple. On the same day, 23

sedated before being louised or shot. The houses they Di Mambro has since

emerged as the financial mastermind behind the Order of the Solar Temple Its spiritual guru, 47-year-old Jouret ran an organisation with characteristics including the pursuit of cosmic forces and knighting cere-monies with Mesonic over-

tones. Followers were often middle class, including sev-eral qualified homeopaths, and gave generously.

Bédat's investigation sheds light on the Order of vides evidence that its existence dates back to 1976. It also raises fears that the sect is still in existence, despite the deaths of Di Mambro and Jouret.

Mr Bédat said: "The tragedy last December is the most frightening yet because it happened without Jouret it happened without Jour and Di Mainbro. Did the

Solar Temple leaders leave behind a second command

structure? There are

rumours that the sect still has thousands of followers, principally in Quebec." A French specialist on th Knights Templar, Jean-Luc Chaumell, believes the sect still has some 2,000 followers in Australia and up to 1,000 in France. He does not believe there will necessarily be more deaths: "Doomsday sects are misunderstood.

They are not in love with the idea of death, nor do they believe in human sacrifices.

nurse working in the King Fahd temptation to break all the ordi-complex in Dhahran said the pay nary social rules, let alone the was good and the staff accommostringent Saudi variety. "It is an nary social rules, let alone the stringent Saudi variety. "It is an unreal world," said one female expat. "You know you don't belong there. You can behave badly

strike again.

Alex Duvel Smith

S yet we do not know McLauchlan and A Parry's motivation for moving to Saudi, except that McLauchlan was out of a job. There have been newspaper reports that she was dismissed from her job at Dundee Teaching Hospital for gross misconduct following a police investigation into theft. Her family yesterday vigorously denied that she was involved. Nor do we know to what extent the two women may have been tied into the kind of expat life led by so

many others.

What we do know is that, ironically in the context of such a strictly moral country, for many British expais Saudi Arabia offers a high octane life. The Arnots' party back in 1979, neither broke nor formed a mould. What hap-

pened on that occasion remains uncertain 17 years later. A jury in Britain came to an open verdict over Helen Smith's death. Her body is still frozen in the mortuary of Leeds Infirmary because her implacable father Ron Smith because you can leave it all behind refuses to give up his pursuit of the truth. He continues to be con-vinced that his daughter was murdered, and contends that one day a further examination of the body

may be needed. What did emerge from the glimpse past the compound wall that the case of Helen Smith offered was a taste of the entangled lives of the expats. Penny Arnot, for all the solid front she presented with her surgeon hus-band at the time, later admitted she was having an affair with a scuba-diver Helen herself was worried she might be pregnant by

her Malaysian male nurse lover.
The Saudi experience is a game
of high risks for the more volatile players. There will be many who payers. There will be many wno spend their three years sitting quietly at home, saving up the cash, watching the BBC on satellite television and refusing all temptation. But for others, it can end in flog-

gings or jail. In 1988, a British husband and wife were charged with the murder of another nurse, a 48 year-old Irish mairon called Helen Feeney The motive was allegedly theft. In court, Peter and Monica Hall mounted a bitter and tearful attack on the Saudis, claiming they had been tricked into a video confession with promises that they would be sent home for trial Peter got 10 years, Monica 8 years. Had it not been for the victim's family pleading for mercy, they would have been beheaded.

For McLauchlan and Parry, all the heady excitement, the fun and adventure have evaporated now in the Saudi prison where they have been held since December 11 without access to a lawyer or even consular officials. The two younger nurses are said by a Saudi newspaper to have confessed, a claim their families dispute.

There are those, including the victim's brother, who would say that if they killed their friend and colleague, they deserve the Saudi sword. Frank Gilford has said he will not ask for mercy to be exercised. But two nurses and their families will all be on their knees now, praying that justice can be meted out back in England

Expatriate games

4 page 13 can life-style, uncon-strained by strict Saudi laws. Fifteen years ago, women were even allowed to drive within the compound - unheard of outside.

The foreign workers were a law unto themselves," said Jeremy Coventry, who lived on an Aramco base for a year. "They brewe own alcohol and even had a pork shop. But even then, the Saudi police gained the right to drive through the territory.

"The people who lived there lived a very sheltered life. It was

safe. There was no crime to speak of — it was a totally closed community with its own shops, libraries and a cinema."

At one point within this surreal world within a world, there were so many minor explosions from stills producing illegal booch that Aramco issued to its employees a drawing of how to make safe distilling equipment. The diagram was swiftly withdrawn after one man was caught and eventually expelled by the authorities for making spirits with an Aramco designed contraption.

Many Americans hardly ever

left such compounds — and the story goes that there were even some who felt so secure that they tried to come back after a disillusioned retirement in the States The world outside the gates, after all, was inimical to nationals from the land of the free.

Saudi Arabia has some of the harshest codes governing social behaviour in the world — codes which foreigners must obey Outside the compound, single men and women are forbidden to mix at the workplace or even take taxis together. Even the local McDonalds is segregated between the sexes. The Committee for Encouraging Virtue and Preventing Vice and the religious police.

Mutawwah, exist to enforce these laws. Women are forbidden to drive and must not be seen in the company of a man who is not a close relative — husband, brother or father. "I couldn't go anywhere without being chaperoned by a

and the second second

man," said Anne Froelich, whose husband got a job at a Saudi uni-versity. "We had an Egyptian friend who took me to a woman's soukh (market). I was covered except that I didn't have anything on my head. The religious police

on my head. The religious police who are all over came up to this man, assuming I was his wife.

"They said that as a good Arab wife, I should have my hair covered. The Egyptian said she's an American. The religious police said, Don't lie.' We didn't argue. We just left."

UST once she ventured out without a man, taking her small daughter to buy bread. "I was moved to the front of the line and got rid of as soon as possible. I never did it again," she said. Had she been a Saudi woman, she could have gone out with a group of friends, fully veiled, without a problem. Living in the middle of a Saudi neighbourhood, not on a compound, she was caught in the discompiture of the culture clash. "I think what I hated was this feeling of being caged," she said. Her one delight was the women's day at the zoo. Her husband would the front of the line and day at the zoo. Her husband would

drop her with her two little daughters. Once inside, all the Saudi women would unveil - the only women would three — the only men allowed were the religious police. It was a happy time.

Froelich took a typing job at the American base in Dhahran to escape the hot and claustrophobic house, picked up and dropped home by a chauffeur every day To her amazement, one of the perks

was an alcohol ration. The Dhahran airbase, near the King Fahd Hospital where the two British nurses now charged with murder worked, is famous among western expats. The Saudi author-ities turned a blind eye to the pubs and discos. One British Aerospace engineer said that until recently there were 15 pubs on the base. Pubs, that is, with barmaids behind the bar and optics serving

Ulicit bocus.
"It's just like England, but the bars are a bit fuller, that's all. You go into one, and they are just heav-

ing," said the engineer.
Sandi sensitivity over the pubs led them to cut the number down to five a few months ago. "It was getting a bit out of hand," said one regular customer Drinking is the biggest expat pastime. Somehow the Johnny

Walker Black Label, changing

hands at \$120 a bottle, makes its way past the authorities into the compounds. Other expatriates make do smuggling in Boots wine kits. And then there is the local hooch, distilled everywhere and called "saddigi", which translates as "my friend". Most often served with tonic, E and T as it is known.

it is not a drink for the moderate. But it is not generally mild men couple of years under the Saudi desert sun. They have usually gone for the money: not only are salaries high to reflect the diffi-culty of living in Saudi, but most workers can live on their allowances and expenses, and bank large sums back home—or

offshore. A nurse is paid about £14.000 on average in the UK Nurses like McLauchlan and Parry could bank at least £16,000 tax-free in Saudi, with more for their special-ity — both worked in a renal unit at the King Fahd. Then they were provided with free accommodation, meals and annual tickets home. "Many girls can save easily on packages like that," said the nursing agency. One Filipino

dation "like a five-star hotel". Each nurse has her own room equipped with her own phone, TV and furniture provided free. Many nurses enjoy the contrast of the high-tech, brilliantly equipped Saudi hospitals after the cash-strapped problems of the NHS at It is not just the money; there is

It is not just the money; there is excitement, too. "The social life is great out there," said a spokeswoman for one agency, Angel. International. Life as an expatriate, she explained, offered the chance to mix with dozens of nationalities, and plenty of unmarried men, most of whom are highly paid.

Some expats are walking away from crisis or disaster, such as the end of a relationship. Others want end of a relationship. Others want a radical change to their life. They may find what they want, or they may not. Nursing is the only work in Saudi available to woman. To the expat bachelors who vastly outnumber them, they represent the only available "screwing fodder". It is a heady mix. There is every







ATTENTION IN '96 1. "So sorry to hear about your baby." Whose potentially libelious condolences (and to T(modw (a) Princess Diana (b) Sarah Ferguson (c) Bob Geldof (d) Llam Gallagher 2. Who ethnically clean

their advertising? 3, St Olave's became a school for scandal. Why?

4. James Hewitt, John Bryan, Fill Houtemann, Camilia Parker-Bowles Who is the odd one out, and why?

5. Who had a record breaking exhibition the Taba? (a) Picasso (b) Monet (c) Cezaune (d) Damien Hirst

6, Who confessed to being "pretty middle class"? (a) Tony Blair (b) John Prescott (c) Glare Short (d) Peter Mande

7. He divorced Lisa and made an honest woman of Dabbis, Which unlikely



Who were the runners

11. Who had three-and-e last bours to read 1,500

13. Who falled to build a (d) The Kraye

15. What are the names

Answers, bottom left of this page

Some claim this man and his chubby schoolfriend have revolutionised capitalism. Oh really?

Tubs who is cream of the crop



tart that someone is miss-ng. Ben is missing, Ben Co-en, the big bearded partner. of Ben and Jerry's ice cream. Instead it is Jerry even addresses Ben, whom he has known since school, as if he were in the room instead of back at the factory in Vermont.

. 6 W

and the 100

22.10.00 $e(\omega) = e_{e^{\omega}} \cdot e^{i\omega \cdot T^{\omega}}$

J. 100 35

 $\|\varphi_{-1}(x,y)\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{n})} \leq 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \delta^{n}$

1.5

For those who have not yet tasted it, Ben and Jerry's is to Haagen-Daza what the Body Shop is to Estée Lauder. It's the ice cream with a social conscience, made from decent ingredients by two old schooliriends who struggle to employ decent work practices and be-lieve business has a social and environmental responsibility. Sounds familiar? Yes, but even

Sounds imiliar? Yes, but even a far as these guys, who organise "joy gangs" to cheer up the workers by pairolling the shopfloor dressed as Elvis or pipe Barry Manilow through the office sound that the company of the country that system. It's company policy that 7.5 per cent of the profit goes to charities, as does a certain per-centage of each worker's time. Potential employees are acreened for a social conscience at job intera social conscience at job must views to check their suitability. (One man was rejected after ob-jecting to B&J's policy of paying medical insurance for homosexual

partners.)
As a business it has been a sen-sational success but like Roddick, Ben and Jerry have stuck their Ben and serly have stated the paparaget and been shot at. Critics have seized upon their apparent self-righteousness, arguing that their widelypublicised conscience is simply a marketing tool. Their efforts to secure the Amazon rain forest for

cure the Amazon rain forest for the next century have been pored over and found wanting. "Look," says Jerry: "When we started out neither one of us was looking to make a lot of money, or looking to become a businessman. looking to become a busine or looking for a career." Which just goes to show how wrong a boy and Jerry are selling \$155 million worth of ice cream a year, employing 700 staff and exporting thousands of artery-stopping tubs of Butter Pecan, Chunky Monkey. The least fills the room. "Oh, he's classic entrepreneur. He's very innovative, very risk-taking, he doesn't have a fear of failure, he loves to try new things. I really like that, because that's very different to the classic entrepreneur. He's classic entrepreneur. He's very innovative, very risk-taking, he doesn't have a fear of failure, he loves to try new things. I really like that, because that's very different to the classic entrepreneur. can be, because 18 years on, Ben and Jerry are selling \$156 million

and Cherry Garcia to deep fr

Ben and Jerry have known each other for years. "Ben tells the story of when we were in gym class, standing at attention, and he heard this loud thud, and it was me falling over," says Jerry, fondly. "I had fainted from being on a diet. I was a tubby kid."

the rear of cross-country runs. Still friendly in their early twenties they took an los cream-making 18,000 and in 1978 set up a small ice

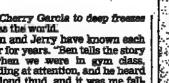
and correspondence," says Jerry, looking horrified by the memory. It was a shocking revelation

men were, you know, bad people; that companies exploited their workers and exploited the community. So our first thought was to put the business up for sale."

For sale? "Mum, and then Ben

ran into this eccentric old restau-rateur in Southern Vermont, and this old guy said: Ben, why are you going to do that? And Ben said: Maurice, you know what businesses do? They take advantage of the community and their workers'. And Maurice said: Ben, if there's something you don't like about your business, why don't you just change it? And Ben said it had never really occurred to

and Jerry, as vice-chair. Have they managed to stay friends? "We are better friends now than we've ever



Ben was also on the chubby side ting together as they brought up

creem shop on their own.
To their hippie horror, it works

had a very negative reaction to i — because we fait like business eative reaction to it

So B and J set down and worked on "a philosophy that supported the local community". Ingredients would be purchased from local farms or firms that retrained the unemployed or ex-convicts; staff would be given time off to work for charities and a percentage of the profits would be directed into local projects. Result: they would feel good and their customers would feel even better shelling out \$5 for a tub of Chocolate Chip Cookie

Dough.

Jerry still seems rather surprised at their success. Is he? "It's shocking." he says slowly. "And I think people who knew Ben and me are shocked as well! I mean, we are not the kind of people you would expect that from?"

I note from the company report that Ben is down as chairperson,

What does he like about the absent Ben, whose presence never-theless fills the room. "Oh, he's



really have 'joy gangs' randomiy imploring the staff to be happy? 'it's not as organised as you're implying'

Jerry seems so laid-back I expect him to slip under the table at any minute. He seems utterly affable and yet, and yet I can't help feeling mildly suspicious. Especially when he suddenly slips in that Ben, the chief flavour designer, has a poor sense of tasts. What? We are talking about Fudge Behaving Badly, a new flavour from which Comic Relief will earn 50p a pot, and I ask Jerry to describe the

taste, "The taste? Yes, how would you describe the taste to me?
"Boy! I don't know how I would

describe it! You know, the interest-ing thing about a lot of our flavours is there's a lot of texture and flavour contrast. And some of the reason for that is that Ben does a lot of designing of the flavours, and he really can't taste that well!" That seems rather odd, I murmur. "You know, he's . . . he can't really smell, and when you can't smell, you can't really taste. That's why so many of our ice creams are very strongly flavoured, so that Ben can taste them!" I am just about to interrupt when Jerry con-

layour he likes and he replies: "Oh, you know, it's funny, the fla-yours I like most that the company has made — well, actually a lot of them have been discontinued." them have been discontinued."
At this point Eugene, the PR
man enters brandishing a tub of
Fudge Behaving Badly, which he
has obligingly sliced in half with
the office paper-cutter, so that I
can see how the fudge and caramel
swirl together. "Now that looks
pretty swirly," says Eugene.
"I have this samurai sword,"
remarks Jerry, eveing the uaper

remarks Jerry, eyeing the paper cutter. "Ben and I met a guy once who is a martial arts teacher and he decided to show us some sword training, and we would slice these pints in half, it was really hilari-ous! Really funny! I have one of these Japanese warrior outfits at

home!"
And I suddenly picture him in his outfit swinging through the factory, slicing wildly at tubs of grotesquely rich and chunky ice cream. Do they really have "joy gangs" randomly imploring the staff to be happy? "It's not as organised as you're implying," says Jerry solemnly. "It's an ad hoc volumber committee, who try to figure out ways to bring more joy to the workplace."

is entitled "Ben and Jerry's Phi-lanthropy", while on page 20, we find "Highlights of Ben and Jer-ry's Social Report", detailing their six Partner-Shops, owned by nonprofit-making organisations and reassurance for shareholders that "among senior managers, gender balance is even". It's not hard to be cynical about

B&J's as Jerry is fully aware. "It's natural when a company is trying to do good things that people will be sceptical, they've been trained by business to think that business is just about self-interest."

And occasionally things do go wrong. Attempts to help the Amazonians by harvesting Brazil nuts came a cropper, as did a Partner-shop in Harlem, supposedly run by

homeless men.
But Greenfield says the press have always idealised what they were trying to do, and have blown the mistakes out of all proprotion "Things do go wrong when you're innovative. But the idea that we're not cracked up to be what we say we are, is no more true than the idealisation was in the beginning!" Behind all this is his and Ben's

next biggest are governmental, and now the biggest most ornate buildings are commercial. That's new, it's within our lifetime that business has become the most powerful force "Now religion and government

had as their purpose the welfare of general society. I mean, that's why they existed. But business has become this most powerful force, and yet it's only out for itself, which is why I think we suddenly have a feeling of everyone-for-themselves again."

He is now talking so fervently, I wonder if the White House may be next on his personal agenda. And

"Business strongly influences elections with campaign contributions," he rages. "It controls legis-lation and lobbyists, and it controls the media through ownership. You have car companies lobbying against fuel effi-ciency standards, against safety standards; you have businesses lobbying against environmental regulations, against health insurance, against the minimum wage. I mean, this is stuff that's good for tinues: "it's also why they have a inter committee, who try to figure out ways to bring more joy to candies and nuts, or things like the workplace."

This "fun" side of Ben and Jertrast of different textures. He's interest of different textures also why they have a interest of the average person, and yet business is taking over the average person, and yet business is taking over interest our culture. "It's the most power full force in society," he says an all these companies! It's crazy! I don't get it! Do you get it!"



Peace on Earth? Let's agree to differ

HRISTMAS is a good time for thinking non-Christian thoughts. When Christians celebrate the story of Jesus's birth, they prompt non-Christians to cel-ebrate their own stories. Christmas throws into relief the practices and beliefs of other religions. As a Jew, my own favourite story is from the Talmud, a huge, multi-volume work which sets out the laws regulating Jewish life and also contains rabbinic commentaries on those laws.

This is the story. One day the great Rabbi Ellezer was contend-ing with a number of fellow rabbis about a particular passage in the Bible. He was maintaining a stance which the others rejected. They were right to do so, because his interpretation was demonstrably wrong. But he wouldn't give way. Seeking to shore up his posi-tion with proofs of his authority, he commanded a nearby tree to uproot itself, which it did. He then directed a stream to flow back-wards; it too complied with his

order. He turned triumphantly to the rabbis: as you see, I am right! But the majority of rabbis were unimpressed. Miracles don't support an argument, only arguments support an argument. Stung by this, and rather missing the point, Rabbi Eliezer then commanded the walls of the schoolhouse in which they were debating to collapse. In deference to his authority, we're told, they began to fall; in deferton, they began that in the ence to the authority of the other rabbis, however, they did not altogether disintegrate. (And the Talmud adds, rather quaintly, "thus do the walls tilt to this day"). The rabbis remained unmoved. What địd any of this have to do with a question of Biblical interpretation?

Driven to even more extrava-gent measures. Rabbi Eliezer then gent measures, Rador Ellezt then appealed direct to the Almighty, with success. A Heavenly Voice spoke, rebuking the majority rabbis: "Why do you dispute with Rabbi Kliezer, when in all matters of religious law his is the correct

Eliezer. The author of the Bible placed His own unique authority on the side of the dissenting rabbi And this is where the story be-comes interesting, because the rabbis were entirely unfazed by this intervention. They responded to Him: You have no right to inter-fere in our debate. The Bible is for us to interpret, not You. It is not in heaven, it is on earth. And You Yourself have taught that one must follow the majority. Far from being angry at this retort, God is delighted. He laughs, saying: "my sons have learnt well, they have defeated me".

interpretation?" God sided with

This is a story which has many applications. It supports, for exam ple, that tendency in literary theory which denies the authority of the author in determining the meaning of the text. (Indeed, mod-ern critics are now alert to the contribution that rabbinical techniques of interpretation can bring to the study of literature). The story is also relevant to the continuing debate among lawyers on the extent to which, in the interpretation of statutes, it's appropriate to go back to parliamentary debates to find out what was intended by the legislators. But that

The rabbis responded to Him: You have no right to interfere in our debate. The Bible is for us to interpret, not You

is the least of its appeal. For any-one unfamiliar with Jewish tradition, and in particular for anyone who subscribes to the political fic-tion of the "Judaeo-Christian tradition", it's a shocking story.
It makes defiance of God a virtue. The story endorses resistance to

divine authority, and celebrates rational inquiry, where truth is reached by debate unaided by mirdemonstrations of power.
While it is true that the majority

rabbis resist God by quoting back at Him his own words, thus affirming His authority at the very moment of disregarding His support for Eliezer, and paradoxically thereby justifying their defiance as submission, this refusal to acknowledge God's authority on something as central as the Bible is a scandal. But it's a scandal which goes straight to the heart of Jewish religious practice. For me, at any rate, it defines Judaism.

In doing so, it opens a space be-tween Judaism and Christianity. What Christmas demonstrates, I suspect, is that Christians are encouraged to unite over symbols. They find their faith in the meanings they attach to symbols. principally, of course, the Cross, but other symbols too (I suggest this with great tentativeness). By

in Judaism, where reverence of any images is deprecated, and where instead Jews are encouraged to unite over texts. The most characteristic moment of Jewish observance is thus not solitary prayer but collective study, one Jew debating a Talmudic text with another, the text itself in turn the record of earlier debates.

contrast, there is no such tendency

Of course, there are congru-ences. Friedrich Schleiermacher, who established modern Christian hermeneutics, explained that the interpreter's aim is "to understand the text at first as well as and then even better than its author" (my italics). Thus does a 19th century Protestant theologian meet 1st-2nd century rabbis. But still, it's the differences that are the

more striking.
There is a tendency among liberals to seek to solve conflict by searching for the common ground. At this time of year it is perhaps safe to celebrate what divides us. Jeremy Hardy is on holiday



Hail, sleet, mulled wine and razor blades with vitamin E

E SPENT a family Christ-mas in Northumberland, just past the cold side of Hadrian's Wall. It's quite the bleakest part of England, undulating brown slopes as far as the horizon, 40 shades of beige, so you could imagine you were in the Kalahari if it weren't for the perpetual north wind slicing through every layer of clothing, occasionally hurling a little hall, sleet or snow in your face. In these parts, mere rain is for soft southerners.

trict. The people in Haltwhistle, the nearest town, are extremely friendly, in a way which makes Londoners nervous; it takes us a day or two away from the Great Wen to realise that an amiable stranger isn't some kind of threat. The Wall itself is much smaller than you expect. Any Chinese visi-tor 1900 years ago would have been scornful (their Great Wall was built 200 years earlier). "Call that a wall? Huhl Back in China, we have walls like that to keep the rabbits

It is very beautiful, but without

any of the cosiness of the Lake Dis-

In fact the wall had only a vestigial military purpose, and was more of an elongated customs post. As the historian JC Mann pointed sisted of finding something to do | est red wine. But up at Steel Rigg | is how very few of the innumera-with all the territory its army kept | on Boxing Day it seemed like an | ble plays she watched have suron winning. Hadrian himself was a consoli-

dator rather than a conqueror, the John Major of his day, and built the wall to mark the northernmost frontier of an emptre which did indeed stretch to the African deserts. It has an anally-retentive feel; the stones are all hewn to the same cubic shape, and don't overlap, so it's weaker than it might be but frightfully tidy. And the rules insisted that there must be a fort, with northern and southern gates, at precisely every mile. These were built even when the northern gate opens on to a vertiginous cliff, hundreds of feet above the ground,

Being built on the highest ridges, the wall closely follows the coldest contours in the county. As you stand on top, you can feel the deepest sympathy with a Roman soldier, gazing out on hundreds of the and the color of the col miles of ice and rock, dreaming of vineyards and peach trees and the Mediterranean, without even a crackling log fire, a goose or a pan-ful of mulled wine to look forward to. (Mulled wine is a drink of which I deeply disapprove, usually being a way for parsimonious

inaccessible even to the sheep.

on Boxing Day it seemed like an awfully good idea.)

I KNOW healthy eating is important, but things are getting ridicu-lous. In Hexham I bought a packet of disposable razor blades, Wilkinson Extra II, labelled with added

Best are the old jokes: 'No, dear boy, the worst ever was when we played Good Night Accrington in Vienna'

vitamin E. I cannot imagine what purpose this serves since I'm sure they taste revolting.

OVER the holiday I read, with great pleasure, Valerie Grove's bi-ography of Dodie Smith, and heard with similar pleasure much of the late Paul Eddington's memoirs, So Far So Good, on Radio 4. Of Dodie Smith's many plays only Dear Oc-topus survives. What's remarkable

hle plays she watched have sur-vived either.

All those people in evening dress cramming the theatres to watch George and Margaret, The Great Romancer, Mr Wu, The Damask Cheek, Ye Gods, Kitty Grey, Cheek, Ye Gods, Kitty Grey, There's Always Juliet, The Immortal Hour — the list is endless and in its way deeply depressing. All those critics occupying acres of newsprint with judgments on these forgotten ephemera (and of course the impresarios and directors are the depression of the course the impresarios and directors are the depth income. tors raging about the dumb incompetence of the critics for not realis-ing that Old Acquaintance, He Was Born Gay and The Distaff Side were the greatest works of drama since Macheth, and didn't they realise the sheer guts and, yes, blood, which had gone into them?). It's the theatrical memoirs, like

Eddington's, which survive. They make best-sellers (With Nails, by Richard E. Grant, My Name Escapes Me, by Alec Guinness) and last far longer than most of the plays they mention. ("I was in Margaie, playing the naughty vic-ar in Put Her Down, You Don't know Where She's Been, when I

first met Gielgud.")
We love the choleric actor-man-

agers, the camp romantic leads, the lecherous landladies, the haughty grand-dames, the drunken old tragedians, all possessing more life than any of the sessing more the than any of the paper characters they played. Best of all we like the old jokes, such as the one which ends. "No, dear boy, the worst ever was when we played Good Night Accrington in

Perhaps the market will decree that bit by bit the theatre itself dies, but the green rooms and boarding houses and Italian resboarding houses and mailed res-taurants with signed photos on the wall ("You're the tops, Laigi" from Larry Olivier) will all continue to exist, filled with unemployed ac-tors gathering material for their

THIS Wednesday, New Year's Day, a secret event takes place in London — the longest festive procession in the world. The London Parade is himselfor Manda in Name sion in the world. The London Parade is bigger than Macy's in New York, or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, or anything in Rio, yet almost nobody you meet has even heard of it. It takes three hours to pass, and has 7,000 people in it, including 2,000 cheerleaders and, rather touchingly, "a procession of all the Greater London mayors". Oh and it's all free. Oh, and it's all free.



PREPOSTEROUS exercise has reached a suitably prehas reached a surraty preposterous conclusion. Vibrant, tangy, charismatic John
Major is enthroned as the BBC's
personality (or as they say in Guys
and Dolls, poi-sonality) of the Year.
Having ruled out Tony Blair because of his supporters' excesses, the BBC now behaves as if the vote in support of John Major can be taken seriously, even giving it space in bulletins along with genuine news. The returns, it claims, have been subjected to sophisticated electronic techniques. But what this means is unclear. Subject a rancid prune to sophisticated electronic techniques and it's still a rancid prune. What is so extraordinary is that director-general Birt. who has issued strict instructions who has issued struct must detailed to give less space to genuine polls because of their lousy record in the 1992 election, does nothing about the kind of exercise which, like this one, sits up and begs to be rigged. The polls before Christmas on Radio 5 Live which appeared to show the British public standing solidly behind Prince Philip on Dumblane were quite plainly rigged

A psephologist writes. While the foregoing cannot be gainsaid, we psephologists never discount the presence on these occasions of the henomenon known as late swing Sophisticated electronic techniques cannot be fully applied at the height of the festive season, but there does seem some possibility— I put it no higher—that genuine support for John Major was boosted, especially among entomol ogists, by revelations that he calls his wife Norma "little grub".

Smallweed gruffly relorts: An-other instance of the media being fooled. Far from being a revelation newly blurted out by Major in an interview with Good Housekeep-ing, news of Norma's nickname was given in The Oldie three years ago, in an interview with Major by the actress Liz France, Too most curious aspect of this whole rum proceeding is that Norma herself should have said this time that she knew nothing about this eccentric endearment. The question sassy electors will be asking themselves is this: If she'd never heard of it in 1996, how come she had not never heard of it in 1993?

A psychologist writes: But mem ory plays remarkable tricks, as I was saying the only other day to old Dr (you know, that Vlennese chap with the beard) it'll come back to me in a moment.

the BBC's notorious southern bias: early on Christmas morning, a musicologist played a version of the hymn, While Shepherds Watched, using not the fam. herds Watched, using not the familiar tune but one of some 80 others ployed for it in churches across the country. He claimed this had been composed by a shoemaker called Clarke in Canterbury, Kent. Both the musicologist and the continuity announcer seemed totally unaware of what, to anyone who has ever ventured north of Wootton Wawen, must have seemed the most remarkable aspect of Clarke's composition. It was note by note identical with the celebrated Yorkshire anthem On Ilkla Moor Bahat is it really alleged by the BBC that this tune was composed by a Canterbury cobbler? Sophisticated electronic techniques cannot be fully applied at the height of the festive season, but it seems on the whole unlikely. Those tempted to try fitting the words to this tune (and why not, since it's Christmas) may find it surprisingly easy. The trick is to thump the first word of each verse as hard as you possibly can: WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night, etc etc. This leads to some curious emphases. A for instance, one is required to sing. THE angel of the Lord to came down — as if to make clear that the angel involved was the real one, and not one of several imposters. Yet some lines actually work better than in the original, notably: "THUS spake the scraph, and forth-

You will find that you run out of words early in every verse, but don't worry: sing the words of the third line twice and simply go on third line twice and sunply go on repeating the final line until the tune catches up with you, just as in likia Moor. The effect in most verses is undeniably stirring.

HE ONSET of 1997 is sad-dened for Smallweed by the disappearance from the Cambridge United line-up of a players called Jamie Barnwell-Edinboro a name which outruns even Mikhailichenko. The shirt he once graced, I see, is now filled by a mere Barnwell. Comid the that January trying to distance himself from some notorious duke? I also mournfully note the evidence in every local newspaper that the cinema trade is so drunk on popcorn that it still cannot spell dalmatian. Even the New Statesman in one recent edition printed "dalmation" seven times. This is rather like spelling Glenn Close "Gien Close" thus reducing her to the status of a cul-de-sac just south of the Christ-church road in Bournemouth. For the very last time, until I say it again: dalmatian is the word for a spotted dog (or inhabitant of Dal-matia); dalmation is the process of being dalmated.

A pedant wearing a most incongruous hat pulled out of a Christ-mas cracker, writes. Hold hard! Sophisticated electronic techniques cannot be fully applied at the height of the festive season, but I have reason to think there is no such word as "dalmated". Smallweed replies with insufferable cheariness. There is now.

Who wins in gong show?



Will you get an award in the New Year Honours List? No thanks, I was offered a CBE and turned it down says Gordon McGregor. Not all of us are so saintly, replies Harold Brooks-Baker of the society guide, Burke's Peerage

Dear Harold,

LONG with the relatively democratic excitement of the festive season, your office must now be pertation, shared in a thousand other enclaves where forewarned potential recipients await the public proclamation of the New Year Hon-

Once again our astonishingly scious society will have tolerated the arcane bi-annual process whereby anonymous civil servants scrutinise thousands of haphazard recommendations. Then on behalf of 10 Downing Street and Her Largely Uninformed Majesty they apportion several hundred of them to nine levels of "honour". There will be medals for carpenters and

gardeners — self-evidently to the public school/Oxbridge mind the lowest level of contributor. There will be MREs for nurses, sportsmen, firemen and teachers; OBEs for slightly senior educators, health and social service workers; ago, for vice-chancellors, professors, senior civil servants; knighthoods for actors. And so on through life peerages, hereditary peerages, earldoms and the rest.

As the list lands on the desk of our well-intentioned Prime Minis-ter, he will no doubt swell with faction at another blow struck for the "classless society" to which he is so dedicated. He appears to be unaware that, as George Orwell told us 60 years ago, we have no hope of creating such a society until we bring forth a generation of men and women who just do not

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Bargain New Year

Breaks in London

GREAT HOTELS

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INCLUDING FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST

Royal Scot

& Knightsbridge

A THISTLE HOTEL

A TRUSTLE HOTTL

Mount Royal

A TRUSTLE HOTEL

A THISTLE HOTEL

The Grosvenor

Near King's Cross & Euston

By Trafalgar Square in the heart of the West End

Kensington Palace

Victoria & Buckingham Palace

Overlooking Oxford Street

Close to Trafalgar Square,

Whitehall and the Houses of Parliament

CHUREN WELCOME

Minutes from Ken. High St.

Charing Cross

Top of the classless . . . Denis Norden and Frank Muir who did accept the honour of OREs, awarded at the end of 1984

Let me not at Christmastide invoke the spectre of redundancy in your office, but is it not time that the whole parnicious farrago was better ways of publicly praising each other.

With the compliments of the Professor Gordon McGregor,

Emeritus Professor of Education,

Leeds University Dear Professor,

I AGREE with you that the idea of Major's "classless society" is bunk. You cannot legislate against human nature and class is as much a part of human nature as sex. Try legis-lating to abolish sex. I also agree that the Prime Minister's office should not be responsible for dispensing honours. The source of power for these awards should be returned to Buckingham Palace — the politicians should be forced to

remove their greasy fingers.
But that's where the agreement stops. George Orwell's statement may have been attractive, but it was completely unrealistic. There are so many things, like bodily functions or death itself, which will never change. It follows that an ideal world is something which we have long given up believing in.
When I was growing up in the
thirties, people believed Communism might create an ideal society,
but it didn't. There were 25 classes in Russian society before 1917; within three years of the revolution the number of stratifications had risen to 250. Some classless society. In countries where they are properly applied, honours systems are simply a way of rewarding people who contribute to the health, wealth and welfare of the nation, whichever class they come from the lady Aston an American Take Lady Astor, an American Lord Thompson, a Canadian, and Lord Constantine, a West Indian,

who all played a great part within the British establishment. Establishment has become an unnopular word. But all it means is the people who sail the ship at any one time. So why were you so set on

care what "class" they are thought to belong to. Burke's Peerage really doesn't help.

doesn't help.

Yours faithfully. Harold Brooks-Baker, Publishing director, Burke's Peerage

Dear Harold,

CHRISTMAS or not, I'm afraid we don't agree. I think the "classless society" is an admirable ideal which Major regularly extols and steadily undermines.

Socialism didn't fail in Russia it was never tried. The whole move-ment was subverted into a terrible tyranny which, like all despotisms thrived on class distinction. As for handing back the honours system to Buckingham Palace — heaven forbid! The pelace is the root of the

Class is certainly not as inherent as sex, nor as therapeutic. People are suborned by notions like "blue blood" and "royalty" into humbly accepting their own intrinsic inferiority. In truth, "blue blood" is a tendentious fiction and "royalty" is simply those who rule.

Of course, we shall not progress towards a fair society until privileged members like you and me who do very well out of spurious who do very well out of spurious traditions are prepared to protest against them. I didn't need a medal from the palace to persuade me to do my tiny bit "to make this country a better place to live in".

What's more, having worked for many years — well paid, and with a lot of tim — for independent Aftican countries formerly exploited by Britain. I wasn't prepared to sus-Britain, I wasn't prepared to sus-tain a pretentious anachronism by

Fraternally yours,

accepting the designation (mander of the British Empire.

signation Com

Dear Professor,

WHY IS IT that no one has be able to obtain a classless society? That would be wonderful, perhaps, but nobody's come up with a recipe for it yet.
As for the pelace, it may be the

root but it's also the top of the tree. Human nature requires there always to be someone at the top

You are an exemplary person for not needing a medal to encourage you to play a constructive part, but most people do need to have an incentive. And modest gifts bestowed from those at the top pro-vide just that spur.

Because of such gifts people push more than they would do other-wise. That's also part of human nature. I don't understand why you bang on about the Commony
— members of the Commony have benefited a great deal by hav-ing contact with Britain, that's why the institution works as well as it

Honours save taxnavers a huge um of money. These days you no longer have to hand out favours like Blenheim Palace to reward achievement, you can do it with a

cheap little medal. You also mention the title, CHE. That had its origins in the history of this country. Acknowledgment of past glories should be retained. Yours faithfully,

Dear Harold,

IT'S HARD for a committed exponent of honours such as yourself to concede that tradition is good only when it enriches the present rather than inhibiting it. Institutions social, commercial, professional — certainly need leadership and structures showing who does what. But class-consciousness and snobbery are not concerned with what people do. They substitute pride of status for pride of function, peddling the

or pride of function, peddling the pernicious pretence that some people are inherently superior.

The best leadership structures demand competence and limited tenure, not wealth and inherited privilege. And they create community through perceptive powersharing: "When good leaders have been at work the normle say Tidn" been at work the people say, Didn't we do well?"

Let me meet you part-way. I'll support public awards, but at only two levels: an expanded but still limited Order of Merit for preeminent creative achievement (expanded because we're living longer

whether dictator, president or monarch. Someone lies to rule because that's the way humans work.

You are an exemplary person for tinguished affers for the community, recipients chosen by an allparty group of our elected representatives and awards made Commons. We could call it the Distinguished Service Order, though I prefer Westminster Com-mendation — the initials would

discourage uppishness. Happy New Year to you, and to your Peers, Gordon

Dear Professor,

WCs OR NO WCs, I well understand your reservations about the honours system. However, you have not been able to refute the idea that most people need to be

The honours system as it exists in Great Britain today — and which gives credit to people in all walks of life — was copied from the Napoleonic idea of a Legion of Honour.
Obviously the honours, which are
the gift of the monarch such as the
Order of Bath, the Order of Thistle, the Order of the Garter and the Order of Merit — which was awarded to Sir John Gielgud — only have enough places for a small number of people.

It has been proven that the sys-tem devised by the emperor Napoleon and copied in the early 19th century by the British monarch gives people from all walks of life a chance to be rewarded with virtually no cost to the nation. Professor, do you wish us to return to a system by which a monarch was forced to give lavish gifts using the taxpayers' money to national heroes and others who helped cre-

ate a stronger nation?

I believe what you should be fighting for is a change in the system, as I am, not for an eradicarecognises human frailties and gal-vanises members of the public in a constructive and thoughtful way. Unfortunately, not everyone is a saint and not many are as selfeffacing as you. Yours faithfully, Harold

BY GARRY TRUDEAU









Doonesbury



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عدما من الدعل

Charles Nevin's very personal guide to the 🕻 worst of the past year

96 things to leave behind

So. Here we are, halfway through that important period of pause, reflection and dyspepsia between Christmas and the New Year; a time for taking stock, for looking backward, for looking forward, for resolving that 1997 will be different from 1996; better kinder more at each with better, kinder, more at ease with itself. Perhaps, in my small way, I can help. For here, with ado, is my list of 96 people, phruses and phenomena featuring in 1996 that 1997 really would be very much better off

Steady. Settle down. You will al have your own little favourites, but I'm doing this. I should mention, too, that some people, phrases and phenomena do not appear, on account of being too obvious or impervious to well-meaning criticism: Jeremy

The following couples:
Patsy and Liam, Patsy and Kate, Liam and Noel, Mick and Jerry, Jerry and Marie, Mick and This Month's Somebody Else, Madonna and Evita, Paula and Bob. Paula and Michael, Bruce and Demi, Pammy and Tommy Lee, Kevin and Pandora, Kevin and Ian, Kevin and the BBC, Jeremy Irons and Jeremy Irons.

The V Chip, particularly in deadly combination with V Bottomley.

4 Crime and accident reconstruction programmes. Apparently the BBC is planning a compilation of the ones that, sadly, didn't pull through on Animal Hospital, to be called Stone Dead: Rolf's Bloomers.

Clarkson, The Government, Sooty, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Queen Mother, the Prince of Wales, Diana, Princess of Wales, Sarah, Duchess of York, Ruby Wax (but not Madame Vasso, of whom I'd like to see much more, as Dame Vasso), all the rest of them, Trevor McDonaid, Papa Smurf, Nell Wotslaname, MP — blond, grey suits, likes a guid; people who wear baseball caps back to front, call you "Young Man" and talk in lifts. Hey, and talk in lifts. some of those were jokes! (The use of Hey there, by the way, was ironic. It's banned, as is Purleese!). And I should also mention that, for me, the Spice Women can do no wrong. And Sir Cliff's Heathcliff is a cracker whatev smart and encering metropolitans might say. But enough blathering; leth get on with it.

What's wrong with

our boys? They've got everybody

wearing vests now,

Hunter didn't wear

22 Newspaper headlines which

it, that busker at Bank

does Oasis and Raiph

underground station who

23 Another location another

24 Another story about Sooty, Thomas the

Blyton being sold abroad for

vast amounts of money. Are

glove puppets the new rock

Tank Engine and Enid

are a variation on "What's

The Story Morning Glory and "Don't Look Back in Anger". And while we're at

too. Norman

a vest

McTell.

movie star.

21 All these foreign footballers. 10The X Files.
Independence Day So they're here. So what? We've had John Major since 1990.

11 Richard Dawkins. Chuck it, Dicky, and leave us our dreams.

12 British fashion designers ruling the world. Just get on with the

13 And London, Centre of the Earth. Try South Norwood on a Monday

1 / The response "He speaks 1 Tringing of you, too...

15 These impenetrable adverts with empty swimming pools, sub Mad Max landscapes, and strange people, some of them. grunting. What was wrong with men in white coats, a blackboard and a packet of soap powder?

16The misuse of disinterested to mean

25 Fly-on-the-wall documentaries. How uninterested. about a fly-on-the-wall documentary about a fly-onthe-wall documentary?

and roll?

26 Posh birds in the writing game discovering soccer.

27 Another man writing about a book about how his hobby is

28Three

29 Women writers overusing "shag".

30 The expression losing the plot". 31 Restaurants whose decor is all wood and white, a cross between a gymnasium

and a convent. 32 Men writing about their mothers.

33 Or fathers.

34 Or daughters.
What ever happened

to yarns? 35 Prizes, Too many of them.

36BBC Sports
Personality of The Year. Evander Holyfield fell asleep, and, frankly, Des, I

don't blame him.

37The reverse construction which employs "That" at the beginning, as in "That Blank is now the finest blank in blank can no longer be denied".

38 Martin Jarvis overegging and overhamming Michael Frayn on the radio.

39 Politicians reading their memoirs on the parties.

radio in a stuitifyingly dull tone of assumed selfdeprecation. See Hattersley, Roy; and Norris, Steve. And tell me, please, that we've finished Roy's book now.

40 That red lettrace they keep giving you when you're out.

41 Alcopops.

42 There's still three years to go. And already Pre Millennium Tension has been overworked to death.

43And I don't know about you, but I don't care if I never hear another word about that Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich.

44 Or how it should really be 2001.

45 Or how the Ferris
Wheel on the Thames is derivative, and out of scale. That's the idea.

46People who knock Jeremy Irons when he works bloody hard, bloody hard, and actually has a very good sense of humour.

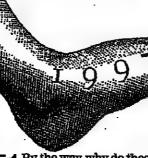
47 And Trevor Numn.

48 The expression "An accident waiting to happen".

49The Aids ribbon as fashion accessory. And all the other ribbons.

50And charity records.

Just send the money



things in narrow streets on the school run.

65 Those enormous jeep things.

66 People who think they are better mimics than they are and expect you to laugh like a drain whenever they say "Why aye, man" or "G'day, mate".

54 Conversations about Europe at dinner

67 Everybody complaining about stress all the time. Don't people pull themselves

together any more? 68 Tony Blair's hair.

57 The expression "If it ain't broke, don't 58 Politicians on the Today programme

55 Dinner parties.

56^{Cucumbers.}

parties.

who say "Jim". 59Listen, I like the It Girls. They're a vast improvement on the Weather Girls, and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson is what we in the media game call "a breath of

fresh air". 60People who say they're bored with Europe. It's the most important question of the second half of the century, along with the education of this and future generations (and house prices

61 The expression to die for".

are going up).

62That Downing Street cat. It's on the Christmas cards this year, too.

63 Television chefs, particularly those



74 Art reviewers who find things "limpid". 75 Another interview telling us that Jodie Foster is very clever

69 Jokes which are a vari-ation on New Labour,

The joke that New Labour will start doing

Old Labour things once they

are in power. In your dreams.

72 People who rave about the invincible

television comedies. Doesn't

superiority of American

anybody remember The

73 Book reviewers who write about

'resonance" and find things

Partridge Family?

"self-reflexive".

71 The expression "In your dreams".

New something or other.

76 Adaptations of Prince's new name, as in The X formerly known as X.

77 Another child of the famous revealing that sometimes their famous parent could be quite nasty, or rude.

78 Another child of the famous complaining that being the child of the famous was a hindrance rather than a help.

79 Newspaper columnists who call their spouses

'The Management'' or some

80 Newspaper columnists who tell you about their children, or their life in New York.

81 Peter Andre

taking his clothes off, again. 82 Take That?

heard of them.

83People who about Youth ending sentences on an interrogative intonation. "Innit?" is an invaluable

invention, our much-needed equivalent of "n'est-ce pas?"

84 People in tweeds and cordurous who talk very loudly to their children in supermarkets and restaurants, having parked the big jeep thing outside.

85 Playing through the pain barrier.

86 Being surprised by the England cricket team.

87The expression "take" for "view".

88 The expression "is that x, or what?" and "is that x, or is that x?"

89^{Call} waiting.

90"Rare" interviews (usually with Madonna).

91 People "coming to terms" with things. 92 Middle England.

93 More pathetic attempts to stick some minor

misdemeanour on Bill Clinton.

94 An easy ride for Slick Willy.

95 Shameless rip-offs of long-running Private Eye jeux d'esprit.

96Er, that's it.



And Ralph Fiennes, while 6 All these rich and famous people who keep com-

plaining that, in Britain, we don't like success, we resent it, want people to fail, whereas in America, there they really, etc. Go live there!

7Crash. Bored, already

Martin Amis and his Oteeth. And his money.

OThat tired old canard Jabout Peter Mandelson. For those who haven't heard it, Peter, in his first election campaign, in Hartlepool, went into a chip shop, pointed to the mushy peas and asked for some of the nice avocado dip. (Some versions use guacamole, but I prefer avocado, don't you?)

protest about their particular grammatical bugbear, like the unrelated "hopefully", which is a very useful construction, you know

18 Too much Scottishness God it's grim, but you've got to laugh or you die. Which I'll do if I see that shot of Mel Gibson shouting in blue one more time.

19 The convention whereby people about to be interviewed on television walk along the street or sit writing at a desk slightly smirking because they're pretending they don't know they're being filmed.

20 Britpop. Why should derivative native turns be somehow better or more desirable than any other? Ridiculously chauvinist.

51 By the way, why do these pistol shooters shoot at targets shaped like people?

52 Conversations about house prices at dinner 53 Conversations about schools at dinner



Spontaneous combustion &

Art forms of the century

SHOOTING STARS

Up ... Andrew Davies's Middlemarch sweeps all before it in 1994, and there are signs that a new star has been born - Mary Ann Evans, whose panoramic novels of 19th century life are

trounce Trollope for serialisability. Lie . . . 1996 and the TV execs are seriously looking for the new Austen. Inspiration strikes, with the casting of Emily Watson as Maggie Tulliver, in a lavish new Mill On The Floss for New Year's Day

Away . . . Now Daniel Deronda there's a challenge. And that enter-prising Mr Davies has already

FALLING

Going . . . It has become a fact too knowledged that any TV producer in need of ratings must find themselves a good Austen novel to adapt. The mistress of the barbed aside la de facto protectress of the stately homes of England (now

Going . . . Pride And Prejudice has been bagged, so have Sense And Sensibility and Persuasion and Emma. Some carping voices begin to complain that sprigged muslin is no longer the height of fashion.

Gone . . . The cupboard is looking sadly depleted. Anyone for Sanditon?

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Richard Williams reveals how jazz has lost its most important asset — the ability to improvise



ZZ IS, of course, dead. | Its demise was announced as long ago as the mid-1920s, when Louis Armstrong stepped out of the ranks of King Oliver's Creole Jam Band to create the role of the star soloist, killing off the original form of New Orleans collective polyphony Since then it has undergone serial assassination at the hands of the heretics of the swing ers, the be-bop revolution, the cool school, hard bop, the avant-garde, jazzrock fusion, and, most recently,

acid-jazz. And yet the more often its obituary is written, the more pervasive its presence becomes. At least the thing called "jazz"—the idea, the ambiance, the packaging — is more alive and available than ever, secure in the institutions and the marketplace.

We all think we know what it sounds like, and what it represents in sociocultural terms. Whether it survives as a living, evolving art is another matter.

Here's a strange thing. According to the results of the 1996 readers' poll conducted by the American jazz magazine Down Beat, published this month, the world's best large jazz ensemble is the Count Basic Orchestra. The second best, a short head behind in the voting, is something called the Mingus Big Band. tion who succumbed to Lou Gen-rig's Disease — amytrophic lateral rigs Disease — amytrophic lateral scelerosis — at the age of 57. The current Basie and Mingus orchestras are what used to be called "ghost bands": touring recreations of the original ensembles, endorsed by the estates of the dead men.

You look at this and you mink how for it seems from the old. Now to the best of anyone's knowledge William "Count" Basis died peacefully in the autumn of

how far it seems from the old image of jazz as an idiom in a state of constant evolution, its unique potency derived from its ability to match the social and technological 1984, a few mouths short of his 80th birthday, after more than half a century at the head of his famous orchestra. He had been predechanges of the century. cassed, by a matter of five years, by Charles Mingus, the great basslat

For 50 years — from the first recordings of the Original Dixie-



land Jazz Band in 1917 to the "free jazz" experiments of the mid-Six-ties — jazz roared ahead on a voyage of discovery. Each decade produced a new set of dominant individuals who reset the parameters, and something like the New Orleans Revival of the 1940s was dismissed as an irrelevance. Yet now we are told that the most creative bands are led by dead men. Is this where the music of Jelly Roll Morton, Charlie Parker and Albert Ayler has ended up? Has jazz itself expired from a form of Lou Gehrig's Disease: a morbid hardening of the tissues accompa hardening of the tissues accompa-nied by a wasting of the muscles? Today, those who subscribe to the jazz-is-dead theory are most likely to point to the crucial ab-sence of truly individual voices. When Duke Ellington wrote for his 1940 exceptions section, he was thinking of the macrific and migra-

thinking of the specific and unique sounds made by Johnny Hodges, Ben Webster and Harry Carney, separately and together. So is it possible to play Ellington's music that so many of the great figures are gone, is it jazz's destiny to become a repertory music, a branch of the heritage industry? Wynton Marsalis seems to think so, and he is probably the best known and most influential indi-

vidual in contemporary jazz. Fif-teen years ago, Marsalis was a hotshot trumpeter with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, barely out of his teens. Now, as director of the jazz programme at Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts in New York, he is seen by a broad audience as the embodiment of jazz. Marsalis is an eloquent spokesman with firm views on what the

music is. And that means an Afro-American music which began in New Orleans at the beginning of the century and ended in New York at about the time Miles Davis started listening to rock records. He propagates this view both in his choice of the Lincoln Centre Jazz Orchestra's repertoire and his own compositions, increas-ingly ambitions in technical range yet ever more concerned with ex-ploring the past.

If jazz needs somebody to repre-

sent it on talk shows and in glossy magazines, it could do a great deal worse than this confident and articulate man. But if Wynton Marsalls is indeed its creative figure-head, then jazz probably really is dead this time. For, fine player and skilful composer though he may be, he is the first figurehead in the history of the music not to have made a personal contribution to extending its development.

Maybe it is dead, then, in the sense that it is no longer alive in the form we are used to. But per-haps it has responded to its own "death" by turning into something

else, something less easy to recog-nise, perhaps closer to its origins, before it had even had an identity. Jazz had its beginnings in the synthesis of musics from the many cultures that happened to coincide in America at the end of the 19th century: slave songs, Protestant hymns, French dances, West Afri-can drum and string music, Ger-man opera, Irish jigs, military bands, Scottish ballads. But as the first half of the 20th century pro-ceeded, and as the music was funnelled through the emerging mass media of radio and the gramo-phone, a process of standardisa-tion took place. By the late 1940s, the time of the bebop movement, it had become very narrowly defined indeed, each musician fulfilling a prescribed role within the comparatively narrow emotional band permitted by material which seldom deviated from the twin tracks of the 12-bar blues and the 32-bar

Broadway ballad.

Mysteriously, instead of suppressing the individual voice, the strictness of this orthodoxy actu-ally magnified the personalities of the players. Within the straitened mias of beloop and post-bop

music, the minutest scrap of character biossomed into a personal style. In no other art form would a Hank Mobiley or an Elmo Hope be able to express his individuality so

able to express his individuality so clearly, and be so warmly revered long after his deaft.

The neo-classicists of modern jazz, the generation taking their cue from Wynton Marsalis, live in hope of attracting a similar reverence. So, for example, the polished young trumpeters Roy Hargrove, Wallace Roney, Nicholas Payton and Marcus Printup perform the kind of music associated 30 years ago with Freddie Hubbard, Lee Morgan, Donald Byrd and Booker Little, inviting us to show a simi-Little, inviting us to show a simi-lar appreciation of their characteristics. They are skilled musicians, fluent in a demanding language — sometimes more skilled and fluent that the men they emulate. But what their work most damagingly lacks is the vital infernal dynamic derived from the sense that the music was being discovered as it was being played.

cord producer Manfred Eicher said recently, "there was still something called magic. A work of art was not a sign of something. It was the sign itself." Eicher, who founded the ECM label, was not being nostalgic. Instead he was identifying the trap into which almost all contempo-rary jazz has fallen.

st-modernism entered jazz in the early Sixties. Symbolically, we can identify its birth in the gap can mentify its birth in the gap between the recordings, a couple of years apart, of two standard ballads by two great tenor saxo-phonists who were both prominent figures in the avant-garde. When John Coltrane interrupted his wild sonic investigations to perform Billy Strayborn's Lush Life, he did it because it was a beautiful tune. When Archie Shepp, 10 years

If Wynton Marsalis is its creative figurehead, then jazz probabły really is dead this time

younger, played Duke Ellington's Prelude To A Kiss, he was making a radical political gesture, a statement that even a revolutionary could pay homage to the past. Over the subsequent two de-

verged. In the hands of the trum-peter Lester Bowle, the Dutch handeader Willem Breuker and the British guitarist Billy Jenkins it became an ultimately destruc-tive form of parody. In the work of Marsalis and his followers, by contrast, it shaded into a suffocating respectfulness.

Even in the best new jazz, the references seem to come first. Sometimes, as with Anthony Braxton's examination of the neglected compositions of Lennle Tristano, or the resumption after a 30-year break of the trio explorations of Jimmy Guiffre, Paul Bley and Steve Swallow, the business at hand is the reinvestigation of territory which jazz bypassed in its headlong quest for new worlds to

This is the problem highlighted by the London Sinfonietta's recent historic recreation of the arrange-ments created for Miles Davis in the late Fifties and early Sixties. written and recorded and then put aside by men with their eyes fixed on the future. The pleasure at the festival Hall came from hearing the music, some of which had never existed outside the recording studio, played live. But as ardently and meticulously as the Sinfonietta and the trumpet solosists performed, and as superfiists performed, and as superfijazz's development: Above (1 to r): Count Basie, Charlle Parker and Charles Mingus are dead, but no one has replaced them MAIN PHOTOGERAPH, A

special affection for these pieces, it

was not the real thing.
But sometimes the problem is more subtly framed. John Scofield's widely praised new album, Quiet features orchestral settings for his acoustic guitar solos and pays explicit tribute to the Evans-/Davis collaborations, without moving the music any further shead Lovely, but what's the point? So many projects seem to begin and end with a concept. One of the best-selling CDs of the decade has been Officium, the col-laboration between the Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble in which improvised solos are woven around the choral works of Gesualdo and others. Even the saxophonist Joe Lovano's new double-CD, recorded New York and voted by Down Beat's readers as the record of the year, divides conceptually into one disc of pre-free music and one of post-free.

However good this music may be, it is the result of calculation rather than impulse, full of "re" words: reunion, recombination, ment, revision. The music is about the music, about the way it shapes itself through a series of choices: it is a sign of something.

not the sign itself.
So while Quiet, New Moon Daughter, Officium and Lovano's live recordings are highly enjoyable experiences, they are also locked into the dilemma of jazz at the end of the century — a problem created when the Sixties avant-garde put an end to the evo-lution of jazz as a form of entertainment, making everybody else worry about where they were going to get an audience from.

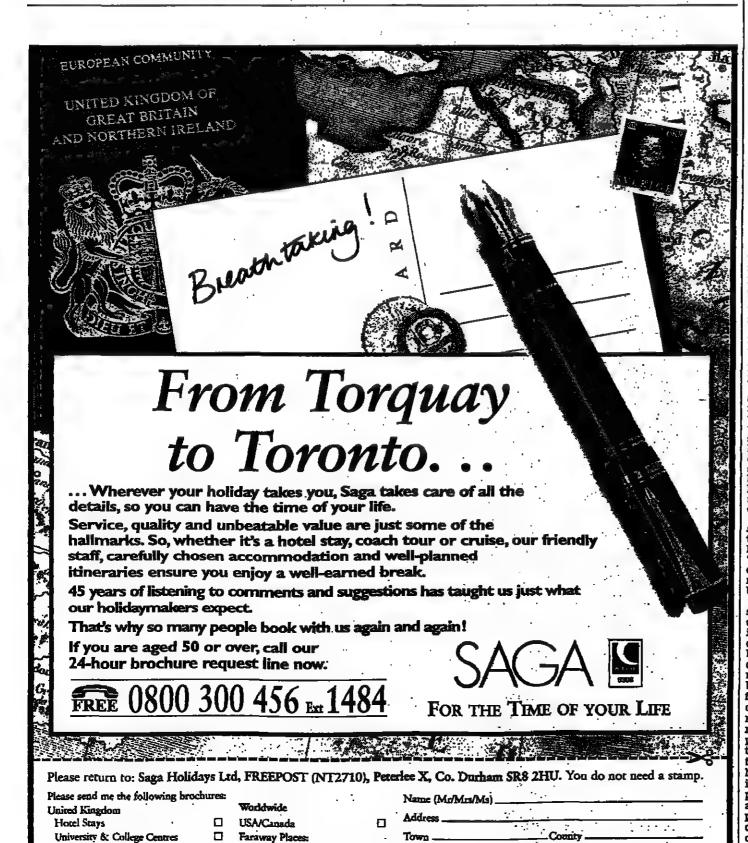
"Free music", which is what we call the music that came out of that came out of

that avant-garde, defiantly retains its fingerhold on existence, the preoccupation of a committed minority. "We play music that en-courages intense listening and dis-courages any other kind." declares Evan Parker, the British saxo-phonist whose 30-year dedication to free improvisation has brought him international recognition. What he is saying is that in his area, jazz has finally come to a decision on whether it wants to be art or entertainment.

What seems to have happened is that jazz has finally and conclu-sively divided itself into "jazz"— an idiom comfortable with familiarity, content to repeat itself—and something less easy to define. In its latter state, you might say that jazz has returned to the condition in which it existed before it had a

"The miracle of century is not power failures or airplane crashes or trips to the moon, but primitive man and Negro folklore," wrote Henri Bernard, an early French jazz critic, in 1949. And no doubt Armstrong's West End Blues, Parker's Embraceable You and Coltrane's Alabama are authentic indi-vidual miracles of twentieth century art. But beyond the fact of their existence lies an even greater

From the Icelandic avant-rock of From the Icelandic avant-rock of Bjork and the songs of the Senegalese singer Baba Maal to the Bristolian trip-hop of Massive Attack and the classical works of the young British composer Mark-Anthony Turnage, almost every form of contemporary music is touched in some way by jazz not marshy by its some way by jazz, not merely by its specific techniques but, much more profoundly, by its underlying spirit, by its love of strangeness and tolerance of imperfection. Multiform and amorphous, it is as resistant as ever to prescription cially moving as the experience and definition. Jazz may have been to those with a its job; its miracle goes on. and definition. Jazz may have done



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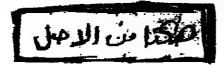
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THE ARTS YEAR: BLOOD AT THE BEEB, GUTS ON THE STAGE AND SEVERAL MURDERS AT THE OPERA

CHANNEL SURFING STUART JEFFRIES

We all went to the ball

ELEVISION will never again be like this, Or at least it shouldn't be. The streets were empty, as a nation (or at least, much of it) sat absorbed in the unfolding costume drama. It recalled the days of Hancock in the fifties, when for half an hour silence walked the pavements and then at 8.30pm door after door opened throwing out neighbours to share their ex periences. But it wasn't the bocomy sea of Moll Flanders or Emma that swept us away, it was Euro 96, the television event of the year, the deepening wound that smiles as it scars.

Lousy costumes, some drama! Like Garry McAllister on the villa Park turf, Scottish hopes had already been brought to their knees, and it remained only for England to fulfil its manifest destiny — to fall winningly, and to focus its failure in one man, who would be forgiven and clasped to its breast. Dra-matically, the final act demanded to be played this way: if England had won it would have been so less satisfying, because England is a happier place when not esultant.

Television will never be like this again, hopefully, because its former role as a cultural millier is splintering with the channels and with the decline in viewer passivity. This year's arrival of The Simpsons (BBC1) to terrestrial networks was one of the more bizarre examples of televi-sion's death as a homogenising force. For years, Rupert Murdoch had ensured that the show would only be shown to Sky subscribers. America's most dysfunctional family arrived on ter-restrial television with most people only dimly aware of what all this "eat my shorts" lingo

Instead, television mostly dereloped niche products. Channel 4 led the way here, with The Girlie Show, surely targeted at that neglected sub-group — thick narrisals who really, really want a girls'-own Loaded; chat show that didn't seem to realise it had been satirised into obsolescence by Mrs Merton and Alan Partridge; with the Friends-Frasier weekly themed evening: with Father Ted, the only British strom worth the name (even though its writers and actors are all Irish).

and actions are an irranj.

ITV had yawning chasms instead of niches — Authea

Turner's All You Need is Love,
Chris Tarrant's Man O'Man. BBC2 unforgivably mangled its best programmes: Seinfeld and The Larry Sanders Show were turfed off the schedules in the spring and then insanely broad-cast thrice weekly in the

But the most contemptible viche product was Fergie, selling herself with none of the cunning of Di on Panorama. Suddenly. of Di on Panorama. Suddenly, she was everywhere: denying everything with Sue McGregor on Radio 4: doing the showbiz two-step with Roby War; hlab-blabing with Jay Leno on NBC. Then she was gone, leaving nothing but relief and, one hopes, warehouses filled with masold copies of her higgraphy. The television event of the year should have been Dennis Potter's valedictory double act.

Potter's valedictory double act. Karaoke and Cold Lazarus. But. though they exploited the me-dium in ways alien to the current generation of TV writers, both were ultimately too clotted to compel, too private in their obsessions to transcend their author's still overbearing personality. Peter Flannery's Our Friends In The North had none of Potter's formal ambitions, instead offering a reductive dra-matised history of Britain dur-ing the last 30 years. TV natists still regard realism dramatists still regard reasons as the proper mode of expression. No one who saw Jimmy McGovern's Hillsborough, his indicting dramatisation of the football stadium disaster, should doubt the power of such realism; no one who saw East-Enders, either, the most effective soap this year, with its gay kiss and its sensitively written and acted HIV storyline, should wonder why realism still dominates

speciousness of Steven Bochco's Murder One. In documentaries, realism often came second to style, typi-cally in Stephen Lambert's Modern Times strand, sometim sleazy and manipulative in its fly-on-the-wall techniques, but always visually summanous. It at least regularly achieved that touchione of the modern documentary — quality of access, la-mentably missing from Paul Beriff's Astronauts, or BBC's De-fence Of The Realm. But it was old-fashioned documentaries that proved really memorable: Michael Frayn's Written On The Water, a portrait of Budapest for Omnibus; Andrew Graham-Dix-on's A History Of British

the most moving television drama. Better that than the

Painting. The madir of British television in 1996? ITM's Dunblane coverage. The doorstroping of Thomas Hamilton's mother hours after the shootings still without justification, back jour-nalism without the emblance of

Chekhov. Yet the most startling fact of 1996 was the emergence of a new generation of dramatists, mostly in their twenties. Nothing like it has happened since the late 1950s, and it signals, at a time when mart arse columnists write off the theatre, a continuing faith in the medium as a vehicle of moral I saw at least a dozen plays this

year by highly promising drama-tists: Martin McDonagh's The Beauty Queen Of Leenane, Simon Bent's Goldhawk Road, Samuel Adamson's Clocks And Whistles, Adamson's Clocks And Whistles, David Eldridge's Serving It Up, Mark Ravenhill's Shopping and Fucking, Nick Grosso's Sweetheart, Marina Carr's Portia Coughlan, Shelagh Stephenson's The Memory Of Water, Diame Samuels's Kindertransport, Jimmy Murphy's Brothers Of The Brush, David Greig's The Architect, Ayub Khan-Din's East is East, Brian James Ryder's The Soldier's Song, In any other country they'd be In any other country they'd be hanging out the burning rather than talking about a dearth of new

Many of these plays emerged from the Royal Court and the Bush. Four of the writers are also Irish. But if any factor links an astonishingly diverse group of plays it would seem to be a cynicism about traditional family structures and a despair at the materialistic individualism of modern life. The rising generation, who in Britain have all grown up under Conservative rule, see through the hypocrisy of ap-peals to family values and reject the notion that self matters more

David Hare, in a fascinating talk given in Texas, said that young writers inday are "encouraged to be unambitious". Yet their themes this year have included the Holocaust, Irish Republicanism, East Rad fascism, unionism and miscegenation. No lack of ambition here. All I hope is that the dramatists escape from the confines of studio spaces and go on to write plays for bigger stages. We have an abundance of young talent. What we need are more plays capable of addressing large congregations.

Established dramatists also had

an active year in 1996. Pinter's mesmerising Ashes To Ashes used a male-female encounter as a metaphor for European history. Bond's in The Company of Men explored the sterility of the male-dominated capitalist ethic. Pam Geme's Stan-ley was an impressive bio-play about the equation between artistic genius and emotional immaturity. Stephen Poliakoff scored twice with Blinded By The Sun and Sweet Panic. A French play, Yasmina Reza's Art, at least raised interesting issues: if the play was hijacked by the boisterous philis-thriam of West End audiences, who seem to assume modern art is rubbish, it wasn't the author's

Perhaps the most heartsning sign of the year has been the recognition of Peter Whelan. For years he has been writing good plays. But The Herbal Bed is a quite exceptional play that uses the accusa-



Theatre is alive - official



starred in Who's (i=ft) took the Royal Court by storm. And in a



tions of adultery flung at Shake-speare's daughter to examine the virtues and vices of English puritanism. Whelan also wrote the most technically ambitious play of the year — Divine Right at Bir-mingham Rep — which tackled both the future of the monarchy and the state of our divided nation. It is cheering to find the 65-year-old Whelan, who takes as his credo Yeats's 'Hammer your thoughts into a unity", being welcomed into

the Premier League.
In fact, I find it impossible to despair of a medium where one theatre alone, the Royal Court, has 60 writers under commission; or indeed where work by Jez Butter-worth, Sarah Kane and Martin McDonagh is getting picked up all over Europe. But it has also been a great year for lbsen: the old bewhis-kered patriarch has been shown to be our contemporary in produc-tions of John Gabriel Borkman, A Doll's House, Little Eyolf and no less than two Hedda Gablers, I just wish someone would take the plunge and explore some of the lesser-known plays: Love's Comedy, The Pillars Of Society.

even Emperor and Galilean. It has also been an astonishing year for actresses. Topping the list for me was Eileen Atkins as the quasi-incestuous, son-fixated Gun-hild in John Gabriel Borkman. But close behind came Janet McToer as the death-hungry Nora in A Doll's House yearning to bring the house of Helmer crashing down, Alexandra Gilbreath's spiritually solitary Hedda, Anna Massey's wily and isolated Elizabeth 1 in Mary Stuart, Diana Rigg's self-loathing Martha in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Penelope Wilton's mercurial Ma-dame Ranyevskaya in The Cherry Orchard and Lindsay Dunçan's Rebecca in Ashes To Ashes, taking on the mantle of European suffering. In their mixture of intelligence and passion, British actresses are hard to beat.

It would be foolish to be too sanguine. The whole subsidised structure is threatened by yet an-other year of standstill grants. While some regional theatres are consistently adventurous others fall into identikit programming. I find it particularly sad that Oxford Playhouse and the refurbished Cambridge Arts, which once originated their own work and which have an undergraduate audience on their doorstep, now seem to be interchangeable receiving theatres. New plays are also increasingly rare in the West End unless they

have gilt-edged star names.
But erasing memories of the
year's horrors — Les Enfants du Paradis, Tolstoy, even Miller's Mid-summer Night's Dream — it has not been a bad 12 months. And the most important development has been the emergence of a new gen-eration committed to theatre as a means of registering diamay at the malaise of modern Britain. In recent years I had begun to feel that British theatre was living of its glorious past. But 1996 showed that it still speaks to the young and that the corruption and exhaustion of the times has bred a countervailing moral revulsion. Our society may be in decline: our theatre however, for all its financial problems, seems to be quickening into new life.

WAVE RIDING ANNE KARPF

Nights of long knives

HIS WAS the year when radio personalities made the news — FORGAN RESIGNS! GAMBO SACKED!— as much as reported it, and when radio policies became as prominent as programmes. BBC Radio's annus horribilis began in February when its Controller Liz Forgan suddenly

and mysteriously resigned.
All became clear in June,
when Birtism Year Zero was announced: the BBC was to turn bimedial, with radio incorporated into a slew of telly-domi-nated departments — at BBC Radio's Christmas party TV bigwigs who've never set foot in a radio studio, let alone airkissed a radio producer, could be heard declaring what a splendid little medium it is. For the BBC the year's Big

Divorce wasn't that of Charles and Di but between Broadcast and Production which, in plain speak, means chopping madein-the-BBC programmes in favour of independently-made ones, thereby reducing rather than strengthening its claim on the licence-fee. Radio 1's Controller Matthew Bannister replaced Forgan, but insisted that he could also run Radio 1. The tabloids set upon Chris Evans for all sorts of heinous crimes rather than the real one increasing predictability.

Radio 2 got a new Controller, James Moir, from television Light Entertainment. In pursuit of 40- and 50-year-olds to replenish his ageing audience, he signed up Steve Wright and Michael Buildings for the Michael Parkinson for the weekends, while leaving the weekday schedules in the hands of old-timers like Jimmy Young. On 3 Nick Kenyon im-

plicitly acknowledged that he done wrong in hiring Paul Gambeccini by sacking him (Gambo didn't go quietly) and replacing him with a triomvirate of safe hands. The network began 24-hour broadcasting, the Cam-paign to Preserve Radio 3 con-tinued to decry its chattification, but Kenyon's debut Proms were splendid, and the 50th anniversary of the Third Programme reminded us of its old treasures and pro-

duced some new ones.
Radio 4 lost one Controller,
Michael Green, who'd modernised the network with flair and the occasional (Anderson Country-type) whopper, and gained a new one from Radio Scotland, lapsed Catholic James Boyle, who promptly banned Eamon, Brother of Jesus. Woman's Hour cele-brated its 50th birthday amid feeble tabloid jokes about "wimmin", and Anna Ford and Kenneth Clarke crossed words on the Today programme, which shed Peter Hobday amid a campaign to save him. Radio 4 comedy - from Mark Steel to the new panel show And I'm the Queen of Sheba — continued to sparkle, while a strong season of new single plays on 4 (the like of which TV hasn't mounted in a decade) included Radio 5 Live won itself the

Sony Station of the Year Award, a new Controller in Roger Mosey, and a sizeable au-dience for Euro 96. The World Service lost its battle for autonomy. On the commercial side, Talk

Radio, leaking money, shocked not because of its jocks but by reinventing itself yet again; out went Simon Bates, Trevor Mac-Donald, Jonathan King, and Anna Raeburn, in came Paul Ross, brother of the more famous Jonathan. Classic FM, also emorrhaging money, was bought by the large group GWR, and broadcast the sump-tuous Russian Revelations, recordings from the Russian archives. Commercial radio became the province of big media companies, now allowed to own more than one FM licence in the same area providing they pass the Radio Authority's new 'public interest' test.

The future, they say, is digital, but the present is all cuts, with the attendant effect on quality. One of the most dispir-iting things I heard this year came not on radio but from a enior BBC radio producer who senior but the said "We're going to have try
not to care so much about our
programmes. It'll be hard, but
eventually we'll manage it".

Andrew Clements pays homage to Kurtag and Terfel The tenor of the times

more how the best can be brought down to earth with a crash or just as swiftly redeem themselves than the fortunes of two opera compathe fortunes of two opera compar-nies in 1996. The Royal Opera's staging of the French version of Verdi's Don Carlos, shared with the Paris Chatelet, would have been a highpoint in any year: sparely, elegantly directed by Luc Bondy, with not a movement or a meeture out of place it beauted a gesture out of place, it boasted a cast that would have been hard to better anywhere in the world, with Roberto Alagna at his mos sussive in the title role, and Karita Mattila movingly eloquent as Eli-sabeth. Then two months later came Covent Garden's other new production in its ongoing Verdi cycle — a travesty of the early Glovanna D'Arco perpetrated by Philip Prowse that manage to fail at virtually every dramatic level. It was hard to credit the two shows could have emerged from the same organisation. In the autumn Scottish Opera

brought off the same trick in reverse, presenting the premiere of Ines De Castro, James MacMillan's first full-length stage work, at the Edinburgh Festival, which dramatically and musically was an object lesson in how not to compose an opera in the 1990s, and then opening its main season with a beautifully sung production of Mozart's Idomeneo, by David Mac-Vicar, that showed how much dramatic intensity and clarity could be achieved on the elenderest of budgets, given a director with a genuine visual and dramatic Opera North had its extremes

too — an exiravaganity amateurish, badiy sung Madama Butterily from the young Lithuanian director Dalia Ibelhauptaite was swiftly followed by a revival of Deborah Warner's three-year-old Wozzeck, with a cast led by Andrew Shore and Josephine Barstow, that seemed even more anguished and desperate than before. English National Opera accrued lots of brownie points by putting on the first ever British staging of Zimmermann's hugely complex Die Soldaten, and otherwise had a rela-

OTHING demonstrates tively quiet, consolidating year, personal survey of 20th-century more bow the best can be while Glyndebourne came up music for Channel 4 which failed write Crysteebourne came up trumps with both its new produc-tions — Handal's Theodora staged by Peter Sellars as a diatribe against capital punishment and Berg's Lulu, rendered with cool clarity by Graham Vick, each en-benoed by grandating aboutes

hanced by superlative singing.
The absurdly hyped Ines De Castro was just one of a clutch of new operas by British composers none of them totally successful, though Peter Maxwell Davles's The Doctor Of Myddfai, commissioned by Welsh National Opera to mark the company's 50th anniversary, had passages of real dramatic flair which, for all the contemporary clutter of the scenario, provided a reminder that Davies is an instinctive theatre composer.
The best contemporary opera to

be heard, though, was ten years old. The semi-staging of The Mask Of Orpheus that opened the South Bank's Biriwistle's festival was an exceptional event, renewing admiration for the work's ambition and complex dramaturgy and awe for the unique power of its music. A new full-scale production has to be a priority for one of the major companies very soon. In the concert hall it was a good

year for new music, with Mark-Anthony Turnage taking another big step forward with his eveninglong Blood On The Floor that combined jess musicians with a con-temporary music ensemble, Colin Matthews producing his most substantial score yet in the choral Renewal, commissioned by the BBC for the 50th anniversary of Radio 3, and John Woolrich producing a shapely Oboe Concerto for the Proms, themselves invigorated in Nicholas Kenyon's first year in charge by a canny mix of innovation and tradition.

The living composer of the year, though, had to be the Rimgarian Gydrgy Kurtag, whose 70th birthday was celebrated with concerts in London and af the Rdinburgh Festival that finally gave him the attention in this country that his intense, single-minded output de-serves. On television, too, Simon Rattle celebrated Kurtag as one of the featured composers in the last programme in Leaving Home, his

music for Channel 4 which failed to deliver quite what it promised and lacked both the comprehen-siveness and the vividness of presentation that such an ambitious

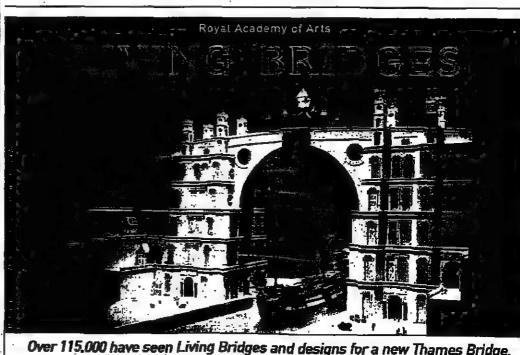
MAIN PHOTO: NEELLIE

project demanded. Rattle's announcement that he is to leave his post with the City of Birmingham Symphony next summer was a shock but not a sur-

thoroughly respectable year, with the Philharmonia producing outstanding results with their new music director-designate Christoph Von Dohnanyi in concert per-formances at the Festival Hall of Schoenberg's Moses Und Aron, and Stravinsky's Oedipus Rex, the London Philharmonic muddling along without a conductor at the helm, and the London Symphony consolidating their relationship with Colin Davis at the Barbican.

Best orchestral concert of them all, though, was the last event in this year's Edinburgh Festival, given by the Orchestra of the Age

prise, and his departure, destination still unknown, leaves a hole in the British orchestral scene. The London orchestras had a that blew every speck of dust off that blew every speck of dust off this Victorian oratorio, and with Bryn Terfel singing the title role with a miraculous dynamic range and missionary fervour. Terfel continues to be Britain's most exceptional singer, but the tenor lan Bostridge's development over the past 12 months has been fascinating to watch; his performances of Schumann's Dichterliebe, Schubert's Winterreise, and a mixed programme of Britten, Schubert and Butterworth with the counter-tenor Michael Chance provided perhaps the most unal-loyed pleasures of the concert year.



Over 115,000 have seen Living Bridges and designs for a new Thames Bridge. Exhibition extended until 5 January 1997

Superb models of bridges. real and fantastic A stunning exhibition Sunday Times

Living Bridges' also includes the Thames Water Habitable Bridge Competition fas a new inhabited Triames crossing.

'Living Bridges' is supported by the Corporation of London and the Générale des Eaux Group in association with

Cross-country

Brown lives up to White Kenyan tag

Duncan Mackay on a British runner

determined to make Africa take notice

ON BROWN took the quick path from being just another talented athlete in Europe to being the best cross-country runner outside Africa with his outstanding performance in the European Championships two weeks ago.

The 25-year-old skipped across the clinging mud of the Monceau sur Sambre in Charleroi to become the first British man to win a major crosscountry gold medal since Ian Stewart lifted the world title

It is doubtful if there had been a more dominating per-formance by a British athlete all year as Brown finished 35 seconds clear of Paulo Guerra of Portugal, winner of the title in 1994 and 1995. It would be easy to dismiss Brown's victory as coming against second-rate opposition but. beside Guerra, most of the rest of the cream of European cross-country running also lined up in the Belgian min-

ing town.

Perhaps even more significantly, though, the previous week Brown had beaten Kenya's Paul Tergat, the twice world cross-country champion, by 15 seconds in a race

Today, in the televised Bupa County Durham crosscountry, Brown will take on Tergat's compatriot Daniel Komen and last year's winner Assefa Mezgebu of Ethiopia in another test of how far he has come this year.

Victory over Komen, the world 3,000 matres recordwho was recently accorded the status of the best distance runner in the world. by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, would cap a fine year which has also seen Brown finish as first European in the World Crosscountry Championships in Cape Town in March and 10th

"Here was an athlete who, 12 months before, felt there had been a change in cross-country running in belt today, Africa really will britain and he wanted to be have to sit up and take notice part of it.

and the benefits he enjoyed were obvious when he ran so well in Atlanta. He certainly did his bit to put British distance running back on track."
Brown will be seeking to be-

come the first British man to win the Durham race since Eamonn Martin in 1990. Paula Radcliffe, on the other hand, will be looking for her third women's victory in four years. But she faces an equally stiff task in meeting Gete Wami, the world champion from Ethiopia.

Brown has travelled the world in search of the training, races and lifestyle that would mould him into a where he was born, he has inherited an inner drive the Welsh call huyl. From the United States, where he was university educated, he has come to understand that only

From Germany has lived with his Duisburgborn wife, he has come to ap-preciate that the work ethic does pay. And from his Shef-field upbringing he has learnt to call a spade a bloody great

He has fallen out on several occasions with the British Athletic Federation and upset some of his peers earlier this year when he said many Brit-ish distance runners lack Brown has never suffered

fools gladly. At Iowa State University he is remembered as the hardest trainer on cam-pus, nicknamed the White Kenyan by his team-mates for the ferocity of his work-outs. After his victory in Charle roi the dour Brown initially declined to lift the trophy above his head for the tradi tional winner's photograph. Jon Brown is definitey no British cross-country's one Belgian newspaper

Brown is not getting car-ried away about his first race-since that victory. "I think it will be interesting." he said. "Everything is going fine and I'm looking forward to the race immensely. But the main priority. My big target is to finish in the top six at "Jon ran a superb race in Belgium," said David Clarks, Great Britain's team man Championships in Turin in March."

sneered next day.

But, if Brown can hang the scalp of Komen around his belt today, Africa really will of the White Kenyan.



Iron man . . . Brown (No. 58) on his way to winning the European C

Rugby Union

Pienaar set to shine for Saracens

Robert Armstrong

RANÇOIS PIENAAR'S first appearance for Saracens is expected to attract a crowd of more than 5,000 to today's Courage League match

against Orrell at Enfield.
South Africa's World Cup
captain, who has a contract
worth around £300,000 over
the next 18 months, has taken part in three training sessions with his new team-mates since flying in from Johannesburg last weekend.
Plenaar will take the field.

alongside Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella with the good wishes of Nelson Man-dela to spur him on to fresh achievements. The Transvasi flanker, who did not decide to sign for Saracens until he had sought the advice of South Africa's president, is treating his time in England as an opportunity to serve as an unofficial ambassador. Saracens have assembled

one of the most talented back rows in the league now that Pienaar has linked up with the prospective England for-wards Tony Diprose and Richard Hill. The presence of the charismatic Pienaar is expected to act as a magnet for

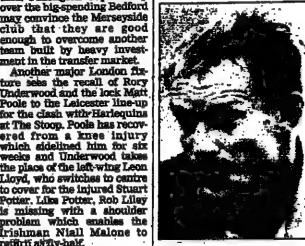
ambitious young players.
Orrell are without two firstchoice backs, the wing Nigel Heslop (required on police duty) and the fly-half Matt McCarthy, who was concussed a week ago. However, their Pilkington Cup victory over the big-spending Bedford may convince the Merseyside club that they are good enough to overcome another team built by heavy investment in the transfer market. Another major London fix-ture sees the recall of Rory Underwood and the lock Mart for the clash with Harlequins at The Stoop. Poole has recovered from a knee injury which sidelined him for six weeks and Underwood takes the place of the left wing Leon Lloyd, who switches to centre to cover for the injured Stuart Potter, Like Potter, Rob Liley s missing with a shoulder problem which enables the

games at The Stoop, Leicester will aim to consolidate their position as league leaders with another victory over the early-season pace-setters. In theory the Tigers could win all four competitions in which they are still involve while Quins, notwithstanding their major signings and ger of missing out on the lot. Gavin Walsh, a tight-head prop from New Zealand. makes his league debut for Northampton against Wasps at Loftus Road. Walsh, who has played for Auckland and North Harbour, displaces the new Scotland cap Matt

Stewart The Saints are without the scrum-half Matthew Dawson and the centre Jonathan Bell due to injury and there are also doubts over the fitness of the Scotland captain Gregor Townsend, However, the cen-

tre Matt Allen Peturus. Sale expect to beat the bad weather for tomorrow's all-ticket clash with Bath at Heywood Road after spending 23,000 on renting frost-free covers. The Cheshire club have used the thermal sheeting for the past three weeks: a 4,500 capacity crowd will help them defray the extra

expense.
The Welsh three-quarter John Devereux is Sale's main doubt with a hamstring injury received a week ago. Their captain Jim Mallinder returns at full-back, having



Having won their last three | Pienasr . . . charismatic

Darts

Taylor made for a place in history as Priestley gets ready to say his prayers

record prize of £45,000 when he begins his defence of the World Championship, which begins today at the famous Circus Tavern in Purfleet

Taylor, 36, won the official Embassy world title in 1990 and 1992 and then broke away with 15 of the other top play- Bristow's achievement.

Council.

Since then Taylor has won the council's version of the world title for the past two years and, if he wins again next week, he will equal the eat of Eric Bristow, who won the Embassy championship five times between 1980 and

greater. That is because some 7,000 players begin in the qualifying rounds of the Embassy, compared to less than 200 in the WDC version. Nevertheless Taylor and

in the sport.

played fewer tournaments than Priestley, is not worried about comparing the two world championships.

"As far as I am concerned

if I win at Purfleet next week Dennis Priestley, the top seed at Purfleet, are still recognised as the top two players as the top two players are Bristow's record," he

in the sport.

Taylor, who is ranked "That's my goal. We have

PHIL TAYLOR will be ers to form the World Darts however, is considered the second only because he has had three WDC world cham- compete for the title with pionships and I was runner-up to Dennis in 1994 and won in 1995 and 1996, so my record speaks for itself. "I've won the last six or

seven tournaments I've played in this year and I've played Dennis four times and A total of 24 players, split got a lot of money on me to into eight groups of three, win again."

£98,000 in total prize-money at stake. There is £1,000 for the highest check-out and £25,000 for anyone who achieves a

"Eric will be lost for words for the first time in his life if I do It," said Taylor. "But I know he has

West Hartlepool ready to let Botham make a name for himself

IAM BOTHAM could three changes to the side make his league debut at beaten by Bath in the Pilkentre for West Hartlepool ington Cup last Saturday. make his league debut at centre for West Hartlepool in the League One relega-tion clash at London Irish. Botham, who earlier this

tention to concentrate on rugby union instead of cricket, is lined up as a possible replacement for the club's director of rugby Mark Ring, who is out for up to four weeks with a dis-

London Irish will be bol-stered by the return of David Humphreys, who has recovered from an ankle injury. The Irish international fly-half is one of

He takes over from Sean Burns, who moves from his temporary place at fly-half back to his normal position in the centre.

Meanwhile Craig Chalmers, the Scotland stand-

off, will be absent from the Scottish Borders side to play Glasgow at New An-niceland. The Melrose player, who missed last week's first-round game against Caledonia because of a groin injury, will again be replaced by the Scotland
A representative Scott
Welsh.

The state of the s

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Hockey

Top juniors take a break

Pat Rowley

HE new National Hockey
Stadium at Milton Keynes Territorial tournament over no opportunity to see several outstanding under 21 players. Maggie Souyave, the women's chief coach, has ad-vised them to take a break a hectic year faces those Under-21 Indoor finals in the Czech Republic next month and the World Junior Cham-

Midlands, who regained the territorial title from East at Rotherham last year, are the one team who can probably afford a few absentees. They provide nearly half the players in the England Under-21 development squad yet suffer less from withdrawals than the other territories.

pionships in Korea in

Midlands have 10 players with National League experience and can call on the powerful Olton quartet of Jennie Bimson, Kerry Moore and the Wright sisters, Sally and

East meet Midlands in the opener today without their senior internationals Kirsty Bowden and Purdy Miller (withdrawn) and Caroline Gilbert (injured). North cannot call on Annalisa Bishop and Helen Grant while West lose Denise Marston-Smith. Midlands start as favour-

ites to equal East's record six championships.

Weekend fixtures

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Man Utd v Leeds Vest Ham v Sunderland

npton v Liverpool (4.0).

WXMALL CONFERENCE Abrinca-Fromagrovy, Fernborough v Dover-tion 9.16); Gateshead v Hafflax, minster v Bath; Northwich v More-Southport v Hednesford; Staly-v Rushden & D'monder; Stevensey Telford v Weiting; Woking v

v Grays. First Divisions Tooting & Bitcham Utd v Leyton Pennant; Whyteleafe v Berkhämsted Th. Second Divisions Barting v Challont St Peter; Met Police v Chesthant; Wembley v Edgwars Th. Third Divisions Epsom & Ewell v Wingste & Finchley; Herston Th. v Harlow Th. New COUNTRIES LEAGUES First Divisions Blackpool Ilvin + Goode; Burscough v Romandate Utd. Citherna v Nantwich Th; Holter OB v Chedderton; Klosgrove Alb v Eastwood Hanley; Moseley v Atherbon Colline; Newsalfe Th. v Parritht; Prancot Camier v Maine Rose; Scillard C v Darven; Trafford v St Helens Tn; Vauchall GM v Glossop NE.

GM v Glessop NE.
FEBERATION SKRUWERY MORTHWESS
LEAGUE First Division: Bedlington Ter-riers v Shildon; Billingtons Syn v RTN.
Neveastis; Dunston Fed v Tew Law Tr;
Durham C v Cheeser Le Street; Essington v Murror; Morpett Tr v Stockoop; South Shilaids v Geesterrungh Tr; Wast, Auditare Prenalez Bielgianz Dengby Utd v Seity Tr. Bashcaughten Weit e Shelliefe, Helliem v vroud 7n; Haitlen Main v Caset Alt, Rachnall Th v Armthorpe Weit, Livesdige Ashfeld Utd, North Ferriby Utd v Beitger n; Ossett Tn v Mailby MW; Pickering Tn v Migg Tn: Thackley v Poutefract Cols. CREWFFX DENSET LEAGUE Prenaler Missions Bidgiary In v Toyrington Chie-

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE First Division Bamsley v Man C

Sirmingham v Tranmera (2.10)

Third Division

Rochdale v Hull

DR MARTHES LEAGUE Premier Divleisen Athersene v Gloucester C; Beldock
Ta v Gravesend & N: Cambridge C v
Asison Tr. Chelmisord v Sudnary Tr.
Chelminam v Numedon: Graviey Tn v
Surion: Doronate Hestings, GraRvis v Kings Lynn; Merthyr v Helesowen;
Stitioghourne v Salkbury; Worcester C v
Newport AFG, Hilliamed Division: Bedsorth Uld v Steaton Tn; Dudley Tn v
Solitus Bor; Eveshern Und v Blakon Tn;
Hinckley Tn v Grantham Tr; Moor Green v
Redditch Und: Pager Rings v Shepshed
Dynamic, RC Warwick v Raunds Tn; Rothwell Tn v VS Rugby; Stoutbridge v Sutton
Coldited Tn; Tamenerth v Sationd RingsSouthern Blevleton Cholerford Tn v Trovbridge Tn; Cirenoester Tn v Fareham Tn;
Clevedon Tn v Bestley; Darttord v BustInghen Tn; Fisher Ath London v Yate Tn;
Fleet Tn v Margate; Havant Tn v Erth &
Behredons, Newport (IoW) v Wasson-8harrs; Billmertra v Forest Grebes, Wennlovidle v Meynouth; Winny Tn v Tonbridge Angels.

League Dev Wallster Cable-Tai v Melahpool
(2-30); Portantadog v Barry Tn; Riyl v
Caersans; Ton Pentra v Barry Tn; Riyl v
Caersans; Ton Pentra v Barry Tn; Riyl v
Caersans; Ton Pentra v Brappor. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Pro

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE fearts . Motherwell

loe Hockey

Raith v Dundee Utd....

leines First Harps v Stelbourne (7.30); Sign Rws v Derry C (7.30). Tomorrom Boheminns v Home Farm Everton (3.18); Cork C v St Patricks Ath (2.0); UCD v Bray Wendocers (3.16).

SELK CUT CNALLENGE CUP: First remain Mayfield v Ecctes (2.0); Moldgreen to Durham Univ (2.0); Wigan SI Judes v Wigan Rose Br (2.0); Wigan SI Patricks v Hallon Simms Cross (2.50); Seddseworth v Ellenborough (2.50); Devistury Moor v Upton & Frickley (2.0); Cutton v Lied ABI (2.0); Overden v Hensingham (2.0).

BINDWITSER LEAGUE: Derby v Leicesbri (7.90): Worthing v Newcastie (8.0), Temes-rews Birmingham v Thames Valley (7.0): Chester v Worthing (8.0): Manchester v Derby (7.0); Shelfield v Lapards (5.30). BATOGIAL LEAGUE Mark First Div-lates Galidiord v Carddi (8.0).

(6.0); Sheffield v Nottingham (6.40); Tenservers Nottingham v Newcastie (7.0); Printillies LEAGUE: Slough v Newcastie (7.0); Printillies LEAGUE: Slough v Newcastie (7.0); Swindon v Tollord Tigers (6.30); Tenservers Culiditard v Slough (6.0); Klogston v Solikull (5.45); Medway v Swindon (6.15). NORTHEINE PRESENTE LEAGUE: Castle-reagh v Stackburn (6.0). Tenservers Whitely v Stackburn (6.30).

Beth v Betr Buces; Blomerriteid v O Sille:
Students v Peterborn: Bridgenorin v RinchBeth Bury St. Ed v Sudbury; Hampton v L.
Westeight: Handetners v Prity; Lectinetter v
Harefort; Lewes A v Mic Sussex, A; POSOB v
Ex Hornets; Sheffeld v Huddereffeld; Stafford v
Wednebury; Staffeld v Huddereffeld; Stafford v
Wednebury; Staffeld v Huddereffeld; Stafford v
Womsens S TERRITORIAL TOURNAMEENTS U-21 (National HC, Militian
Keynes): 8,30 today and temorrow).
U-18/15 (Woughton, Alliten Keynes; 1,30
today and 11.0 temorrow).
Womsens? CLUMBE Crostyx v Cheshunt;

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Clydebank v St Johr Dundee v East File St Mirren v Falkirk.

Second Division
Berwick v Ayr
Brechin v Dumbarton
Hamilton v Livingston
Queen of Sth v Clyde Stranraer v Sta

Third Division Allos v Inverness CT. Cowdenbeath v Albio

Rugby Union COURAGE CLUBS CHA

ham v Blandmanh (2.13); Wabschold v Moseley (2.30); Waterloo v Newcestle (2.15). Poetspeaced: Rugby v Landon Scottish. Threes: Fide v Leeds (2.15); Havent v Harrogets (2.30); London Weste v Cillion (2.30); Morley v Lydney; Gley v Wharfedale (2.15); Recting v Rosetyn Pk (2.30); Redruth v Welsell (2.30). Poetspeaced: Liverpool St Friets: v Eroster, Lessue Fewer Bertte Aspatria v Worsester (2.15, Beacon Hill School); Herster v Eroster, Lessue Fewer Butte Aspatria v Worsester (2.15, Beacon Hill School); Herster v Eroster, Lessue (2.30); Nuneston v Stoke-on-Trent (2.30); Sandal v Lichteld (2.15); Shelfled v Manchester (2.30); Stourbridge v Preston Grasshopers (2.30); Wilmington Pk v Steiningham/Scithall (2.30); Seettle Cariborley v Newbury (2.30); Chellentam v Barding (2.30); Toherd v High Wycombe (2.30); Weston-S-Mare v Met Police, Peetpeaced Aslacant v Phymoutic North Wabram v Berry Hill. WELSH MATFORAL LEAGUE (2.30); The Standon v Worselles Briggend v Treorchy; Cariffi v Pontypridt: Dutvant v Caerphilly. Nestiv v Lisnell; Newbridge v Eibr Vele; Newport v Swansen. Seeted Effeditions Aberston v UWG (Cariffi ind; Abertillery v Lisnellowory; Cross Keys v Benymeen; Massing v Ystredgymlet; Pontypool v Abercynon; South Wales Police v Blackwood. (2.80); Wa

CLUB MATCHES (2.0): Ayr v Wiglown-shire; Boroughauir v Edinburgh Windre. East Kilbidde v Gurrie; Porrester FP v Corstombine; CHK v Kilmarnock; Gale v Steverzs Mai FP; Glasgow Acads v Mei-rose; Glasgow Bouthern v West of Bou-land; Glornothes v Madras Coll FP; blad-dington v Preston Lodge; Kelso v-Alnwick; Kriticaldy v Stirfing County; Lengholm v Jed-Forest; Peeblas v Biggar.

Results

MEMA: Toronto SS, New Jersey SS; Allente 105, Chicago 105: Detroit 89, Indiana 85 (ct): Miami 96, Orlando 75; Mirenenda 88, New York 80; Daltas 108, Golden Stata 115; Alliverature 90, Houston 101; Desver 89, Philadeiphia 119; Usah 99, Portfand 94; Seattle 94, San Antonio 88; Septemanto Seattle 94. - San Antonio 95: Seprement 111. Vancouver 98. Leading standings: Insulare Conferences Athentics. I. Man (W21, LT, Pet.730, GBO); 2. New York (19-8 704-10; 3. Washington (13-13-500-7); 4 Oriendo (10-14-477-7); 5. Philadelphia (6-18-305-12); 6. New Jersey (6-18-250-13). Ceatents 1; Gilcago (W25, LA, Pet.852, GBO); 2. Detroit (20-7-74-9); 5. Cleveland (17-9-254-63); 4. Attenta (16-10-215-79); 6. Chartolin (15-11-577-20); 6. Milwaukes (15-12-559-9). Weethers: Centrol

Western Comferences Milwest 1, Utal Western Comferences Milwest 1, Utal W21, 15, Pct.776, GBS; 2, Mirmesota (11-77-383-11); 3, Delliss (9-17-546-12); 4, Den-ver (8-20-289-14); 5, San Astorio (6-18-240-140); 5, Vencover (8-25-277-165), Paulitic 1, Soutile (W21, 1.9, Pct.770, GBO); 2, LA Laisers (20-5-980-2); 3, Pct.780 (14-15-453-43); 4, Secramento (12-17-414-46); 6, Golden State (11-77-323-36); 8, LA Clin-

Chess

Cricket PERST TEST (Durban): South Africa 285 (A Hudson 30; Present 5-50) and 184-4 (A Bacher 53, A Hudson 52), India 100, (Donald 5-40, Policit 2-16). Submission 175 and 177 (K Jackson 52; Davis 6-80), N Transvaal 117 and 46-8.

ice Hockey

ICO Hockey

MNL Buttato 6, Harriord 1: Detroit 6,
Washington 4 (od); NY Islanders 4, New
Jersey 1: Ottows 6, NY Rangers 2; Pittaburgh 3, Montreel 3 (od); Tamps Bay 2,
Rorides 3; Od); Chizago 4, St Louis 4 (od);
Los Angeles 5, Phoenitr 2; Sen Jose 6,
Vancouver 1. Lesselings standings Basters
Conferences Northeasts 1, Buttato
(NYS, L14, 73, GF705, GASS, Pas41); 2,
Pittaburgh (77-15-4-129-120-85); 3, Heritori
(10-12-6-106-111-35); 4, Boston (13-15-6-67117-32); 5, Montreel (12-16-6-14)-14-129-30)
Altimatics 1, Florida (NZO, LB, 78, GF111,
SABS, Pha45); 2, Philadelphia (21-12-8-11086-45); 3, New Jersey (19-12-8-06-14); 4,
NY Rangers (19-15-6-13-106-41); 5, Weshington (16-19-3-88-104-32),
Western Gestlevences Contrait 1, Dalas
(NZ), L11, T3, GF103, GASD, Pas45; 2, Delvid (19-16-16-10-72-49; 3, St Louis (16-182-105-124-34); 4, Phoenix (15-12-46-11334), Pasifier 1, Colorado (NZO, L16, T3,
GF123, GASS, Pha45); 2, Edecinion (16-184-121-114-34); 3, Vencouver (16-77-1-10).

34). Pacifici 1, Colorado (N20, L10, TS GF123, GASS, Pin45); 2, Edintonion (15-18-4-12)-114-34); 3, Vancouver (16-17-4-03-111-33); 4, Caigary (13-18-5-03-108-31); 5, San Jose (18-18-4-69-111-60)

Sport in brief

Fifty leading sports officials, including administrators, doctors and coaches, from former East Germany are to be charged with bodily harm for supplying competitors with banned performance enhanc-

ing drugs. An investigation, launched about .18 months ago, in-volved huge amounts of docunentation and prosecutors have had to focus on swim-ming, cycling, athletics and weightlifting.

About 20 athletes are suing their former mentors, among them the weightlifter Roland Schmidt, who had to have breast-like tissue amputated from his chest because of sterold abuse.

However, charges will be laid only in cases where the athletes were given drugs without their knowledge, which means prosecutors are concentrating principally on the doping of children and

Tennis

Steffi Graf, who has withdrawn from the Hopman Cup | ning streak broken. with a virus, will be replaced in the unseeded German team by the 21-year-old Petra Begerow, ranked 63rd in the world. The tournament, a warm-up for the Australian Open in Melbourne from January 13-26, begins in the Western Australia state capital of Perth tomorrow/

The French downhiller Nicolas Burtin injured his right knee and leg in a bad fall on the icy Stelvio course during the first training run for tomorrow's World Cup downhill in Bormio, northern Italy.

The 24-year-old skier from Megeve has been taken to a French hospital for X-ray ex-aminations and treatment on k suspected fracture of the shin-bone and suspected tear

of the cruciate ligaments of

his right knee. The French

skier tore ligaments of the

same knee in 1995 and missed almost the entire season. American Football Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Dalias, always expect to

be in the NFL play-offs; between them they have won 14 Super Bowl championships. What they do not expect is to be playing in the first round which is where they are this

Dallas entertain Minnesota today. Then tomorrow Pitts-burgh are at home to Indianapolis in a reprise of last year's AFC championship game and Philadelphia play at San Francisco.

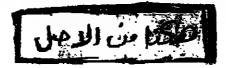
Basketball

Christian Laettner scored a career-high 37 points as the Atlanta Hawks best the Chicago Bulls 108-103. The Hawks won their 10th consecutive home game while the Bulls had an eight-game win-



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The Guardian CINTERACTIVE



Collier

lined

up for

bonus

OLLIER BAY, the

reigning champion hurdler, and Alder-brook, last year's winner of the Cheltenham race, could

clash at Sandown next Saturday.

The pair are likely to be attracted by the Pertemps Hurdle which has been added to

the Sandown card following the abandonment of Kempton

yesterday.
Collier Bay was not entered in the Kempton contest because he is unsuited to the Sunbury track but it was in a

similar race at Sandown, the Boousprint Limited Handicap Hurdle this January, that he launched his championship-

winning season.
Alderbrook, who lost his title to Collier Bay in March, has so far missed his planned

engagements because of un-suitably fast ground but could run in the new event, subject

to the right conditions The new race definitely in-

Racing

Joker pick of the pack

Ron Cox rates

Kettlewell's chaser one step ahead

of the handicapper

IVEN the rise in temperature necessary for today's Newcastle meeting to pass a morning inspection, Easby Joker is expected to withstand a rise in the rat-ings to continue his winning run in the Gosforth Park Handicap Chase.

At the start of last season Easby Joker won off a lowly mark of 93 at Hexbarn. He runs off 129 this afternoon, but Steve Kettlewell's eight-year-old was good value for a length and a half win off 123 at Newcastle last month, and he looks capable of delying

the handicapper again.
Today's race is confined to Joker just qualifies, and he is almost certainly better than the figure the handicapper has credited him with, for he cruised to the front under Peter Niven going to the last fence and idled on the run-in when beating Deep Decision and Aljadeer here last time

It is difficult to see either the second or third beating Easby Joker (2.00) on the revised terms. Indeed, it should be worth noting Easby Joker when his sights are

Easily the most open betting race on the Newcastle card is the Brandling House

to attract market support. Uncle Doug, Star Rage and Santa Concerto will also have

their backers.
Livio won well over course and distance last week, but Ela Mata (2.30) may be good enough to continue the good run enjoyed by her trainer, Ame Swinbank.

Anne Swinbank.

By Dancing Brave, Ela Mata is improving with racing and would have won by a wider margin at Wetherby last time but for a mistake at the final flight.

The BBC televise another four races from Leopardstown, where Dorans Pride (1.35) will be at prohibitive odds to continue his climb up the chasing ranks.

the chasing ranks.
Antapoura (2.05) looks the

one to be on in the Leopard-stown Christmas Hurdle, in which she is weighted to turn Newbury tables on What A On the all-weather at Wol

On the all-weather at Wolverhampton, look out for Canary Falcon (3.50) in the Owl Handicap.

He has done well over hurdles since re-joining trainer Roland O'Sullivan, who won a race with the five-year-old on this artificial surface early last year.

Newcastle are hopeful of surviving an Sam inspection

surviving an Sam inspection this morning, but today's other three scheduled turn meetings, at Newbury, Huntingdon and Folkestone, were all called off yesterday.

Yesterday's meetings at Kempton and Wetherby were lost to frost and snow after morning inspections, and Monday's four turf meetings at Newbury, Carliale, Plump-ton and Stratford, all hinge on



Easy does it . . . Easby Joker displays the jumping technique which can pay dividends again at Newcastle today

Dunwoody makes Merry at Leopardstown

RICHARD DUNWOODY maintained his rich vein of form when he rode Merry Gele to victory in the McCain Handicap Chase at Leopardstown

Klatron Davis, the two mile champion, started odds on but never looked

like giving 15Ib to Merry other crack at chasing's whose owner, J.P. year's Irish Derby, started Gale who made all the premier event but Jim McManus, also had the favourite for the latter Dreaper, his trainer, is not running.
Merry Gale has had to convinced he stays the battle with a breathing problem for much of his career but a second opera-tion during the summer

seems to have done the Co, ridden by Conor O'Dwyer. Fourth to Master Oats in last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup, he could have an-

O'Dwyer had earlier rid-den a clever race on Miltonthree and a quarter miles.

The big race of the day was the Paddy Power Handicap Chase which field to win the Cheltenham went to the favourite New

Co held on by a from Wylde Hide

event but could finish only third.

One Man in good shape after his King George victory. "He ate up well and spent the afternoon out in the sunshine in a field," Gold Card Hurdle (Quali-fler) with something to spare and completed a treble on Bukhari in the Arboretum Maiden Hurdle. said Richards, who will run
The Dunwoody-ridden the grey in the Pillar Chase
Humbel, who ran in last at Cheltenham next month.

The new race deministy in-terests me but it all depends on the ground," said trainer Kim Bailey. "Alderbrook will go wherever he gets the ground and if he misses San-down, he will wait for the Irish Champion Hurdle." Mr Mulligan, who looked certain to finish runner-up to

One Man at Kempton on Box-ing Day until falling at the • Gordon Richards reports on his quarters but Noel Chance hopes to run him in the Irish Hennessy Chase at the beginning of February. Tony McCoy keeps the ride on the eight-year-old and will partner him in all his other races this season.

Newcastle card with guide to the form

9. 11.00

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2.30 PLA MATA (map)

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.0	O week	CASTLE HOVICE WHIGHE 2m 4F CLOVE		
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ė.	1	SEA VICTOR (14) JL Harris 4-11-6	Delivative ·	
1	02120-1	SUTHERLAND MOSS (18) T Tale 3-11-5	مطوطعت لـــــــ	
ă		BATTERY FIRED (112G) N Marco 7-10-12	S House (1)	
	PD.	CHOPMELL DEAPER (247) J Howard Johnson (1-15-12	A Dobbie	
		PONT THE TON (9) J Wach 6-16-12		
Ť		DECEMBER DREAM No. J Brown 7-10-12		è
		PAYETTE COUNTY J ONNER 5-10-12	Contempy -	
	0/0-	KINGS 180H (867) W Kemp 6-10-12	المهددالطة المست	
10		MALTA MAN (24) P Cheesbrough 6-10-12	A 5 8	
11	01-0	OBVIOUS RISK (M) E Cabe 8-10-11		ì
12	3/500-4	PAPPA CHARLIE (28) C Partier 5-10-12	i Sirriy	
12	PPIDOL	PRINCE BALTASAR (661) N Byerch 7-10-12	(i) ·	
14	0/-6	PRINCE OF SAMITS (26) M Hammond 4-10-72	- I Comiting .	
16	0	MASSI STANDARDS (14) R Crognit-19-12	فالمث السند	1
16	16			
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18	4	TIBITCROFT MOY (14) N Bernes 5-10-12	Tupler (B)	
18	045-2	CHESTRY DEEK (2:4) P Beautoopt \$-18-7	منجود الــــــ	

TOP POREI 1998 Suggers Removed S, See Victor 7, Substantiand Stees 6 Settlem 5-2 Suggers Secoust, 11-4 See Victor, 5-1 Settlement Mose, 8-1 Mailte Mas, Ch Figures County, 15-1 Southern Cross, 14-1 Drossore Dresst, Revoil

PORCH CAMPS - BROGARIS BANGNIED Tracted feeders, led 8 cts, pushed cts, won by 15 from its ALTHE Top (Hyecastic 25th not led, SR). SNA VECTORS Hald up, headway life, led had, all out, best lonio by a head (Descenter ImTilly nor led, Gd-TOW HOL (Gd.)

BALTA MARIE Headway 2 gad, disputad lead last, singed on one page list, 4 first oil 15 behind Date Point.

(Calco Zent'lly nor hol, Gd.)

CHESTY Open Ellor I d out, one page final 2, 8 first oil 24 behind für Lurpak, with SOUTHERH'CROSS (gave

120) 49 away 5th & REVOLT (gave Bib) another 20 8h (Newcoods 2th Hr) Flax, St.)

Leopardstown runners and riders

120) 49 away 5th & REVOLT (gave Bib) another 20 8h (Newcoods 2th Hr) Flax, St.)

1.3		HOME TOWN HANDICAP HUMBLE 2nd C4,113	
•	5136-	ERMOLIEK THE RESEL (216) (II) 5 Clerk 4-13-0	Biles R Clark (7)
Ė	THE PERSON	COMMO PRESENCE (NO.1) (CD) P CRESSORAND 9-17-1	
3	4142-U0	JESTMA PUDDLADUCK (18) (D) A Streets 5-11-7 .	
- 4	B52/4P3-	CHILL WIND (347) K Bycrof 7-11-5	- I A PRoposals
	44232	FAITHFUL BAND (15) Mrs & Britis 6-11-5	Michael Candi
•	2800-54	MINOCENT OFFICE (22) May L Strict 7-11-2	O J Harris
7	3063-00	GRANDHAN (20) D Nother 5-17-2	
	44F05-P	CALLANDRE (28) (13) B Rothwell 7-17-0	A Beatle
	12-4541	TREBUIEDE (* 1) (78) ex) (10) ? Montelth ?-11-9	C McConnect (7)
10	2501/1-0	COURT JOKER (16) H Alexander 4-10-11	- Herer
11	135131	200ALA (8) J O'Nell 5-10-11	P Miles
12	00504	MARCH'S LAW (80) (8) G Kelly 9-10-10	
13	3912-00	HOORAN (46) A Vindens 5-18-0	Tanter (5)
14	500042	ANDR MODIORE (12) R Johnson 7-10-0	K Jehonen
	2000-4	20 April 10 Person 8 48 A	D Starley

TOP FORM TIPS: Publical Hand S, Court John 7, Triuminio S 30). SKIDDANY SAMMA: in louch, outputed 4 cel, never near to challenge wise, 131 Str of 5 hebiral Years Subo

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op P	orse Tipe: Alle g: 2-1 Eastly Ja	iger S, Backy John ? Apr. 5-1 Allecher, De all Y JOKATH Led on bli	A Director o	mbuciato, Alpateur, n an wall fall, won b	9-1 Schoo, 15 y 10 Iros DE

event. Sway 2 and, stayed on well flat, neck 2nd of 5 behind Political Tower (No

SOLBAL Ridden 2 out, no improvers, of the solution		_
2. 30 SRAIDLING HOUSE RANDICAP MURDLE has 40 CB, BOY 4-1114 TON ENCOUSE (14) (C) (BP) J Howard Johnson 6-15-0 2 31117-5 UNCLE DOOD (CB) (C) AN Reveloy 5-12-0 3 411380-STAR ROOM (CB) (C) J L Hards 6-17-3 4 127173- SAITA CONCENTO (302) L Largo 7-11-11 5 0011-68 PALACHOATE KNOR (30) (C) A MESTER 7-17-7 5 0011-68 PALACHOATE KNOR (30) (C) A MESTER 7-17-7 4-45122 DALLY BOY (7) (C) T EMERTY 4-11-0	P Carbarry _P Hissan D Carlogher _R Supple _S Taylor (B) _A S Taylor _A Qubbin	
4-4312 DALLY BUT (10) (10) (10) P Montain 5-10-12 7	M A Pitzymiki J Supple A Thorston R Genetty Minday Great	
13 respects	norma del Parentint	٠.

Paster, Uncle Doug, Star Reget. 14-1 Passecquie King, 15-1 Interiory Night.

PORM GURDE - EARTH COMPUNETO, Who leaders until outpaced from 5 dat, 171 3rd of 12 architet Passey A

Day (Note: 2 TriCT now Ind., Gol-Grit.

LINGO, Always going well, led 4 out, eagly, won by 71 from Brancher, with PUREVALUE (passe Sta) another 41

LINGO, Always going well, led 4 out, eagly, won by 71 from Brancher, with PUREVALUE (passe Sta) another 42

LINGO, Always going well, led 4 out, eagly, won by 71 from Brancher, with PUREVALUE (passe Sta) another 42

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ALTISAL Hard ridden and soil quicken Sat, 15 270 to 17 50-	
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a Riverse Constitution and a Marie 7-15-2	it Therefore to Maked Googl
3 SORRE CARDINAL STREET, (10) Mrs 8 Street 6-11-2	P Carbony
4 0-04F4S PERCENCES SECTIONS (100 AND 100 AND	- Piles
	S Taylor (S)
WALLEY BURNEY (PC) TO SECURITY 2-11-2	

a removes
Trap Polyldi Turch Sportey Goylo 3, Panadala's Syether 7, Singling Sand 6

Bething 1-2 Sportey Goyle, 5-1 Kilophy Bay, 7-1 Mater Nova, 12-1 Perents's Bredier, 16-1 Singling 5

Reparty, 50-1 Monaugiby Man, Carolinal Sinner

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Build in what of art	
3.30 OLE YEAR HOTICE HINDLE 2- EX.216	
1 15 ANVANCE EAST (14) (0) 16 Dods 4-11-5	- I firmin
2 1 106THR ROOS (30) (8) J Howard Johnson 5-11-5	M A Plantage
	A Thereise
4 4 ROLLEY FRANK (46) Experts 4-10-12	A Dabble
E DESCRIT LONG R McGaller 5-10-12	T Holency
6 222-625 FASSAN (5)-(5F) M Haramond 4-10-12	- R Gerellie
7 - 100- OFFICE ANDLESS OF HORSE T-11-12	D.I Melling 4
1 0-PSF JAMESER (10) Mrs A Heagthon 5-10-12	Id Pleater
BAFTON Gricers 4-10-12	
10 READOW SEE W Rend 4-10-12	T Read
17 - 85 Number (1985) P Cheestrough 5-10-12	A S Smith
19 . October J Fitz Gerald 4-18-12	P Corberry
13 \$ THE PAST MEX (14) Martin When 4-10-12	
48 0 UM POCO LOCO (40) Mg J Brown 4-10-12	Collection (2)
16 - PSPS-00 COQUET GOLD (34) F Walton 5-10-7	B Sherry
16 reserve	

Bettings 5-8 Mixter Rose, 5-1 Quango, 6-1 Advance East, Builts Frank, 7-1 Fessen, 10-1 Semanki, 14-1 Medius, Ten Pest Str., 18-1 Menskit

Wolverhampton (A.W.) with form for the Jackpot races

•	4
12.50 Leigh Crofter	2.20 Sounds Logal
LOD Wood A TRE	2.50 Amington Lass
1.80 So America	8.90 Beatles
	ry Paleon (sh)
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12.50 PRINCES BADROLP (DIFT) 78	20.004
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ing 3410 FALED TO MY (72) H Littred	n 3-8-12TG Helmann St
tos States JOHAN BOY (9) (CE) P Limpl	7-4-5 \$ Banders 0-k
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TON 401555 AMONTH (90) (05) (NP) D Nich	old 4-0-6
107 (2525 AMTA'S CONTESSA (26) (D)	B Palling 4-8-11Dene 07hill 6
108 SHOT QUILLE BAILTHE (1) (CO) D H	nych Jorne 6-8-8
100 · 220043 MUMAY'S MAZDA (72) (D) J	Eyre 7-8-1 Preside (7) 1
110 . DEZODO CHALKY DANCHII (17) Pi Colli	
QP PORM TIPS: Laigh Crofter S, Desert herst	or 7. Marierio Bess 6
	-1 Culvati Martin, Marjoria Place, 6-1 Jigmur Boy, 6-1 10 June
	over 2 out, just held on, won by much from Shashing Disease Sto (Motoverhamosine 7) book.

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1.20	UZZANO SAIDIN AUCTION STAKES 2YO 77 C2,800	
101	6 BOYAL CASCADE (9) B McMuton 9-10	
koz Kos	SPARAC EXPRESS B Hill: 8-10	
104	PRESECTI 1099 M Charmon 8-7	
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	4.05 Noble Trees	5.40 Overs Het		_		_
	1.25 Doctors Pride	9.40 Opera Het 9.15 Ciffées Pag		2.4	D INSCREON CRASE IN CRASE	18
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	\$ 10173-9 THEFLENIOOD	P O'Brien S-13-0	E Servera (2)		e Led, 12-1 King Of The Gates, 18-1	
	7 MATER TURNAMUNIA R 7- MT O'SPEND T	Tante 5-11-8	COTOurser		5 BT ERGE SPORT HANDICAP	٠.
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i.	109 PORM TIPM Blass Bads 5, 5				1-4102 RAWY C Rocke 4-11-6 _ 30-8411 CLIFDON POQ J S Boige F62140 OWNEADUFF A L T Moore	75
-	Betting: 4-5 Stor Gale, 5-1 Jodes 13-1 Bill O'Speed, Templement Ex	i, 8-1 Kilono Boy, 6-1 Storm Gent, 18-1 G press.	lenned Boy, Turramurra Girl, 14 maners	10	154314 FONTAINS LODGE A Mu 008214 KAWA-KAWA P Delenny	1

20111 YARTHOOTH A.L.T Moore 5-12-0 13011 A.M. THE BUTLER C Rocks 5-13-11 92001 BOOMY K Perroly 7-11-5 P-2113 MOOME THYRIP P Mallins 6-11-3 316108 JAME DRON' A P O'Srien 4-11-4 1,35 жили меняти менят нойка сила за сила

4 211-111 DORASES PRICE N Housiges ?-11-13	
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- 4 THEP CARAGRACH JH Sec. 7-11-4	P Not Them
TOP PORTE TIP: Decree Pride 5	
Bellings 1-4 Dormes Prints, 7-2 La Glasse, 12-1 Georges, 25-1 Certalia.	4 1000
BBC-1	
2.05 LEPARETORN CHRISTIAN BURGLES - CLASS	
1 21215 WHAT A QUINTION IN F MONTH 6-11-7	
1 TIMES MINITA DISSESSMENT OF THE COLUMN TO	
2 1331FO DOE BLALT Moore 19-11-2	
2 42214 RATHOMESON S.J Trescy 5-f1-2	I Breety
4 TOTAL RADAMPOUR W P MARIN 4-18-15	D Class
S 135312 ANTAPOURA A P O'Brien 4-10-8	C Share
TOP FORM TIPS, Antiquent's S. What A Question 7	
Bettlent 5-4 Attenuest, 7-4 What A Question, 6-1 Restroyour, 9-1 Rechapter	n,121-1000 EL 5 nam

WUSSELBURGH

12.36 (3m Hdle): 1, ROSEAL, A Dobbin (4-9 tev); 2, Nessycalades (4-1); 3, Mair Repril (25-1), 10 ran. 3, 14. (P Montelh) Tole: (1-50; 1.10, £1.20, £3.30 Dual P. (2.20, Trie: £14.30, CSP: £2.63. Trick 14.30. CSST-12.05.

1.05 (See Cig. 1, MLHE CRAME, R Garrity (9-4); 2, Winner Bolle (16-4); 3, Fine Twee (100-1), 8-6 to Noyan. 8 rat. 25, 18, Pare 3 Bradistres) Tota: 53.10; CLEB, CLAB, Cent Commu.
2.06 (See Male): 1, YELDEP, D Perker (6-5 tay): 2, D'Arthley Street (6-1): 3, Hallette-falls (7-9). 5 ran. 4, 13, (C Parker) Total (2.00 t1.50, t1.50, t1.50. Deel Fr 13.10. CSF: 13.08. NF: Dig Deeper.

(SUBS. FIGURE 1.22.1)2 APT JOURNAL THE Burly: 2, Whithy Subsen (5-7); 3, Subsen Burly: (35-7), 6 run. 3, 9, (alm M Raveley) Toke: C.1.30; F.1.4, 6.77, D. Dual F. E.1.60, CSF: E2.88, NP. Cottetown Boy. 12-15 (1mb 1, CAYS SOTTOM, J Ouing (6-1); 2, Indiahra (4-1); 3, in Good Pubh (14-1), 11-4 tay Three Arch Bridge, 11 ran. 2, K (A Newcorribe) Yole: Eise; 22, 13, 22-20, C.S.O. Dual P. E15.00, Tric: 194.50. CSF: (28.69, Tricast 2266.19.

TOP FORM TIPS: Son Of War & Oners But 7. Johnny Settelide & F4-1144 WAMEATTAN CASTLE A LT Moore 7-12-0 13-735 PURTING PETE WP HARIES 8-11-11 5-409 RANSENIA B - 10 Orace 5-13-15 5-4644 ARCTIC WESTHIRE M J P O'RHOR 7-11-3 37305 METANYARDO D G MoArde 4-11-5 1-1102 RANY C ROOM 4-11-5 25-2861 AE NOVAL FOLCE 300 of COLSEA 25-2861 AE NOVAL FOLCE 300 of COLSEA 1 DAYMPONT EARQUET WP Mollous 5-C-0 PET OPTENSIA TREESE P Mallos 5-11-0 47 THE CHEY MARKES FORMY 7-11-0 491 THE CHEY MARKES FORMY 7-11-0 Ladbrokes yesterday cut Imperial Call to 4-1 from 9-2 to repeat last season's win in the Cheltenham Gold Cup next March, while the The Grey Monk's odds have been reduced to

16-1 from 20s. "Our decision to push Imperial Call out has spurred a number of his fans into action and he has been well backed today, as has The Grey Monk who has been subject of some interesting each-way support at 20-1 and is now 16-1," said spokesman Ian Wassell. "Despite One Man's King George victory, he has failed to attract a single decent bet for the Gold Cup." Blinkered for the first time today: NEWCASTLE L30

Jemima Puddleduck. WOLVERHAMPTON 12:50 Failed To Hit, Chalky Dancer, 2:20 Stonecutter, 2:50 Elraas, 3:20 Obelos, Young Benson: 3.50 Canary Falcon.

2.16 (1.5.20. 10.07 ft. 22.00 (2071.05 ft. 2.16 (1.5.20. 10.07 ft. 2.16 (1.5.2 2.45 (7): 1, FAST SPM, A Cultons (5-2): 2, Chastows Figer (11-2); 3, Firskin (5-2): 2-1 lar Senate Sulley, 6 rap. 5, 5, (7 Sarron) Tota: (2,70; 12:30, E1:10. Dust F: E10:60. CSF: 214:60. Crueto, CSF: £14.80.
3.15 (1m): 1, SAJEVEMARION, J Culno, 16-2 tov): 2, Kingoldip Roy (100-30); 2, Samuel of Hopes (6-1), 11 rap. 5, 2 (J Banks) Tote: £5.90; £5.10, £1.20, £2.20. Dust F: £12.70. Trice £10.60. CSF: £12.33. Trices£ £45.74.

LES (Sun 24 Chi) 1, RESERY GALE, R Derivacity (5-4); 2, Risiren Duele (4-64ev); 6, Riftysopenchammele (6-1), 5 rm. 8, 12, 11 TR Drasper) Totte (22,0; C1,80, C1,10, Duel F-52,00, CSF: 52,92.

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Belthup 5-2 Gut Brand, 9-2 Gut Yeksen, 5-1 Ellis Yope, 5-1 Sis Garden, T-1 Sooty Tern, 6-1 Kid Ory, Nytions Mistake, 10-1 So Amering, 12-1 Astrol Investor PORM GUIDE - GULF SHAAD'S Cheesed leaders, kept on first furloag. 19 first of 12 behind Leigh Crotte (Richterhampton (2 hzp.).

BLITE BEOFER Prominent 21, 98 5th of 15 behind Speedy Chanek (LingSeld 7 hzp.). Previously driven clear
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SOOTY TERMS Chanze over 21 out, soon weakersel, 10 5th of 8 behind Souling (LingSeld to hzp.).

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FORM GUIDE - CAPTAIN CARATI Duril, naver dangerous, \$9 14th of 17 behind Studed (Posterizet Si hop. PROTESTICATE LANIS Headesty over 17 cut, rgt on well-resource, 25 Sng of 12 behind hapter Star Langistic St. Close up, every chance 16 cut, rgn on under pressure, 25 Sng of 12 behind hapter Star Highly Close up, every chance 16 cut, rgn on under pressure, 27 Sng of 12 behind Senser (Yermouth (Bach Side, Scj.). CHERKY CHAPP'N With loader serby, westerned over 21 cus, 111 8th of 12 behind Charcel Martin (Notworkstaping 7) http://

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Victory against Arsenal and a Boxing Day thrashing. John Lawson finds a lion-heart learning management's ups and downs

Bierhoff has Forest stirred by Pearce pride eye on move

thighs and steely glare that made opposition players cower in unashamed respect and honest-to-goodness fear are not quite the same force as they were when Stuart Pearce was pumping up Nottingham Forest to bursting point.

If Brian Clough was the lifeblood of a club that has flirted successfully with the best then Psycho himself was the heartbeat. And what a heart. Not many players even con-sidered the painful prospect of trying to block one of the full-back's marauding, bucca-neering runs. All they saw was eyes fixed like bayonets, shining tattoos that could

to win at all costs. With his 35th birthday looming in April, the runs are not so frequent or penetrating these days but the passion that burns inside Pearce still demands and commands respect wherever he plays.

It was to that respect, that commitment, that determination not to concede defeat that Forest, not surprisingly, turned in their greatest hour of need eight days ago.

Anyone with an inkling of day-to-day life at the City Ground will say that it was only a question of when Pearce would manage the club that has been his work-

Arm-waving, screaming in delight and uncontrollable tears are real three-lion emotions

ing life for 11 years or more. would one day boss the club he has played for with such

The timing could have been better for all concerned but it was hastened by the predica-ment that Forest had got themselves into, dashing headlong towards the Nation-wide League at a quicker rate than desperate shoppers demanding cash for the sales.

Frank Clark, all honesty erity, had tried his best to stir some reaction from a side that not only had failed to win in 16 league starts but was beginning to mirror-image the sad outfit that went down in Clough's

For all Clark's admirable qualities, he knew he could not provide the resuscitation levels needed to get Forest back on their feet quickly enough to stand any chance of retaining an increasingly coveted Premiership place.

He also knew — to his credit — that the inspirational quality that he perhaps lacked in his dignified man-ner was present in the man who has replaced him, temporarily or otherwise.

That is why Clark had no hesitation in recommending to the Forest directors when

HE muscle-packed | "should give Stuart a try". A few hours later, after deep conversation with his wife and close friends, Pearce had installed himself in the madhouse of management. Whether he decides to continue in mid-January, when Forest's protracted takeover plans might be shrouded in ess mystery, is debatable. For all we know, Pearce's

England career, brought out of self-inflicted retirement by son, might well be over. But no one should underestimate how important representing his country is to him. The arm-waving antics, the screaming delight and uncontrollable tears are the real thing when it comes to his three-lion emotions.

have been stamped SAS and a single-minded determination Prolonging his playing career with Forest is not far behind in the priority stakes. He is rattling on past 500 ap-pearances for the club and approaching 100 goals since Clough picked him up for a song from Coventry in May

sion. Pearce was the one who did the "picking up" after that. He reveals: "When Pearcy rolls up his aleeves, hitches up his shorts and goes into battle, you can't have anyone better on your side.

"There were times when we were in need of a bit of an allround lift and you could al-most bank on him picking up the crowd and the team. I know one bloody thing, he

certainly picked me up.
"I used to watch full-backs whack the ball forward in Pearcy's direction and when he chested it down and set off on one of those galloping runs of his, the poor lad who had just got rid of the damned thing would be saying, 'Oh God, here he comes again.'
You could see the horror
bursting through the expressions on their faces."

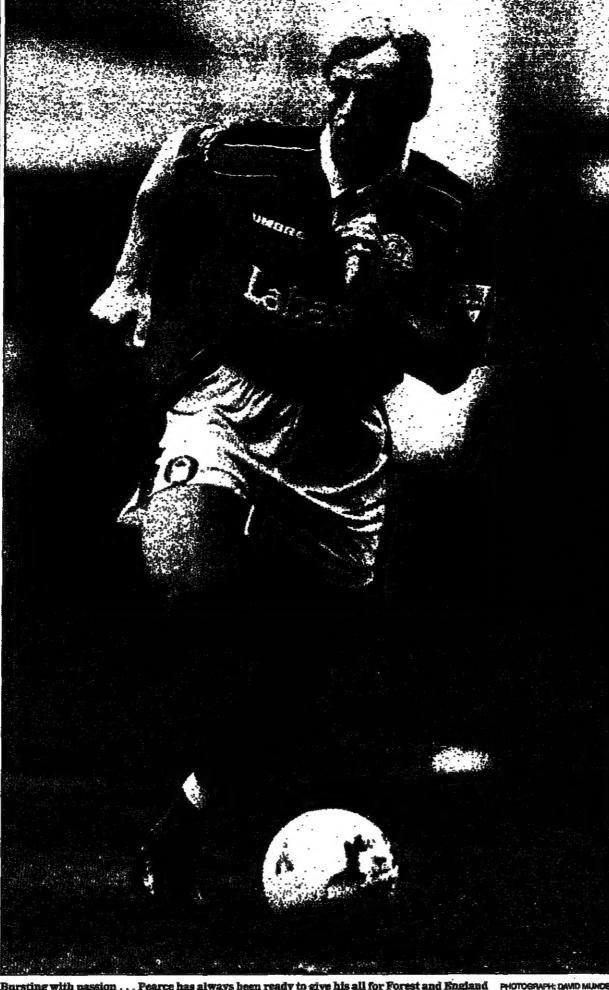
Whether Pearce can go o lifting Forest remains to be seen but he made a good start against Arsenal even if Manchester United ruined his Boxing Day.
It was inevitable in the

wake of Clark's departure and Pearce's clench-fisted ap-pointment that there would be some reaction in his first game. Forest came from be-hind to beat Arsenal and outwit Arsène Wenger who, despite his deep knowledge of the game, had not appreciated the influence that Pearce can bring to bear by the River Trent. If Clough could walk make it halfway.

United, however, ripped up the script and further questions of Pearce's managerial technique will be asked this afternoon when Forest head down the A46 to meet a Leicester City side managed by a man who might easily have been installed at Fore before Clark got the job 31/2

years ago. Martin O'Neill's place in Forest history is decorated with honours but the manager's job there is currently held by an individual who will probably go down in the club's history as one of the greatest — and possibly the most popular.

rily or otherwise.
That is why Clark had no sitation in recommending the Forest directors when was leaving that they might even settle for him



Bursting with passion . . . Pearce has always been ready to give his all for Forest and England PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID MUNICEN

But there will be some ago-nising before he makes up his mind about continuing the

managerial job. Pearce will weigh things up next month and decide what is right for him and his wife Liz.

as his tackles, and he knows he will need more than a little humour in the weeks and maybe months and years shead.

yet he still enjoys letting his hair down with the punk-rock fraternity in which he has

Pearce values his private life and finds relaxation at mix but it works for him.

many friends. It is a peculiar He switches off from foot- the woods.

ing love of working with main gates as quickly as he horses — his wife introduced him to the equestrian life — It is not so easy to do that in his now role but the football folk of Nottingham hope that will stay in management long enough to steer Forest out of

HE GERMAN international Oliver Bierhoff may well become the first high-profile forplayer to be lured to Blackburn Rovers by the prospect of playing under their new coach Svan Goran Only three months after the gifted striker rejected the next month. hance of a move to Ewood Park he has reopened lines of communication with Black-burn officials through his

to Ewood

sentatives. News that one of European football's most accomplished forwards is unsettled and considering his foture will cer-tainly interest the Manches-ter United manager Alex Ferguson, a long-time ad-mirer of Bierhoff's abilities.

lan Ross

Bierhoff, who scored Ger-many's golden-goal winner in last summer's European Championship final against the Czech Republic at Wembley, currently plays for the Italian club Udinese. However, this week he publicly announced he would like to move to England.
"Although I do enjoy life in Italy, I would like to join a top

club in England," he said. /
Although Blerhoff, 28,
recently signed a contract de-signed to keep him at the Serie A club for at least the next three seasons, he is confident of negotiating an immediate release if any club is willing to meet an anticipated asking price of \$5 million. "I am under contract until

the year 2000 but I am sure that Udinese will let me go," Balckburn's former man-ager Ray Harford tried to sign Bierhoff in September but abandoned his attempts after the player rejected a basic

Although the Swedish coach Eriksson is unlikely to take control at Blackburn until July because of contractual obligations to his present Sampdoria, he has been told he can begin spending immediately the estimated \$20 million which has been made available for new

Any transfer would be delayed until after Bierhoff has a minor ankle operation early

Everton have falled in an attempt to sign Leeds United's former England international Carlton Palmer.

With his first-team squad ravaged by injuries. Ever-ton's manager Joe Royle asked his Leeds counterpart George Graham to consider a 21.5 million offer for Palmer, who arrived at Elland Road from Sheffield Wednesday for \$2.6 million in 1994.

Royle may be forced to name a side lacking six regu-lar first-team players against Wimbledon at Goodison Park this afternoon. But he said that he had not considered calling off the game, some-thing Middlesbrough controversially did last weekend when they declined to play at Blackburn because of similar

Coventry's veteran goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic will break his club's appearance record when they meet Mid-dlesbrough at Highfield Road

Ogrizovic, 39, will play his 544th game for the Sky Blues, eclipsing the mark set by the former Coventry centre-half George Curtis in 1970. Coventry's manager Gor-

don Strechen said of Ogrizovic: "He trains more than anyone else in the club and, when I told the players he'd equalled George Curtis's re-cord on Boxing Day, they stood and applauded."

Baggio loses £2.4 million in alleged savings swindle

ROBERTO BAGGIO has lost up to \$24 million in an alleged investment swindle, Italian newspapers

reported yesterday.
The Milan and Italy forward, reputed to be the world's biggest earning soc-cer player in 1995, was one of at least 200 people who put based in Rimini which promised enormous returns on foreign investments in tax ha-

vens, according to reports.

But the money has allegedly vanished and 16 people from the company in the Addrictic resort were arrested shortly before Christmas. "There would now seem to be no trace of the billions of lire invested," said La Stampa. "There is not much to say about this. It's all in the

hands of my lawyers," said Baggio, who is estimated to have earned £3.07 million in Reports said Rimini magistrates were investigating the firm, which had promised to place clients' funds in a West indies-based bank. Some of

this money was used to buy shares in a Peruvian marble

A N Other

ers had put money in the com-pany but added that Baggio was the single biggest investor, placing between £1.2 million and £2.4 million. Corriere della Sera said fi-

Judicial sources reportedly

said other Italian soccer play-

nance police were consider-ing opening their own Inquipaid taxes on funds. The alleged swindle has

come at a bad time for the 29year-old Baggio. He has spent much of the season on the bench at Milan and has quarrelled with Arrigo Sacchi, who returned as coach at the San Siro earlier this month, Bayern Munich are to make a fresh offer for Stuttgart's

disenchanted Brazilian striker Giovane Elber, a move that could pave the way for Jürgen Klinsmann to leave. Bayern's president Franz Beckenbauer, aware that Elber had received offers from abroad, said his club would reopen negotiations and was confident that the Brazilian would move to Munich next season.

Stuttgart rejected a Bayern offer of around £3.8 million for Elber a year ago.

Thousands back Old Trafford's title charge

Nell Robinson

AYBE it was an excess of the Christmas spirit, or a shrewd assessment of seasonal form. Either way Ladbrokes yester-day took a £10,000 bet on Alex Ferguson's side to win the Premiership and promptly cut United's title odds from 9-4 to 2-1 second favourites behind Liverpool.

Certainly United's 4-0 trouncing of Nottingham For-which yesterday led Chelsea's

ing Leeds at Old Trafford.
Ferguson must decide
whether to start with Andy
Cole, who proved his return to fitness with a superb goal against Forest, or persist with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, an-other Boxing Day marksman.

est has established them as the form horses and today they have a further chance to sneak up on the rails by beating Leeds at Old Trafford. Ferguson must decide whether to start with Andy Cole, who proved his return to fitness with a superb goal of the standards in the Premiers of the standards in the standards in the Premiers of the standards in the standard are more foreigners now, maybe because of the way England played in Euro 96.

There's a great deal more at-tention on the Premiership dard is certainly better. Clubs are spending money to try to get results, and that's got to

franco Zola looks to be one of

his own home, and couldn't get his own rhythm," said Gullit. "Now he is at home. feels appreciated and that the team appreciates him, and that's what he needs."

But Cheisea will do well to beat Wednesday who are un-

beaten in 10 games, eight of season. them draws. Arsenal are among those who have falled to breach

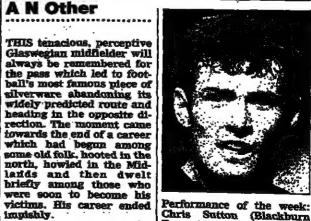
struggling to ring in a cheer-ful new year after a dismal run which has yielded only seven points from nine games. Another defeat by Spurs at St James' Park today will ask serious questions of a

Although Newcastle's assistant manager Terry McDer-mott yesterday admitted that will be early-morning pitch the season's shrewlest deals their defence - Arsene the team were "not playing inspections elsewhere.

Queens Park Rangers travel to West Bromwich Albion hoping to extand by a five-match winning streak which has taken them from 19th up to sixth and put them back on Course for the Premiership.

The games between Crystal
Palace and Stoke and between
Luton and Wycombe have been called off and, with more

Last week: Brian Talbot (Ips-wich Town, Arsenal, Watford, Stoke City, West Bromwich



Performance of the week: Chris Sutton (Blackburn Rovers), whose all-round excellence against Newcastle on Thursday did much to spoil Alan Shearer's

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The Guardian Cinteractive

Team sheet

Plast is ruled out by a harmstring strain but Vielra returns after suspension and will purtner his fellow Franchisan Garde in the Areacas midfield. The Gunjers are hoping, that Dhon will be fit, while Merson and Koown are expected to shalte off knocks picked up in the goalists draw at Shathed Wednesday. Villa have doubts over the times of other striker Milopoint (virual) and midfielders Draper (groin) and Taytor timent.

Chalcas y Sheff Wed

Leboust and Wise are tree from suspen-sion but may have to wait for their recurs-to a Chalces side who have won their last two games. The Dutch winger Blinker could return to the Wednerday line-up as they by to extand their 10-mitch enbacten

eventors are without Hindholde, who ha ion has a rib injury and Kanche fown with file. The Done hope to w

a hymphing strain, meaning a cyllup for Lewis, while Leonar is doubtful with a bruised look Clough has a nose injury but is Wally to play bolind Forest's front men.

The same of the sa

mean but their old boy Sharpe has a groin latury and is set to mast his first possible roturn to Old Trafford. Yebback

Newcastie v Totiunham

The Newcasses compage - measure rate but both are set to play. Totalehian's Scales has acquired a damaged harristring and could be missing but, attacught Caraptroll has an anale problem, he is co-pacted to make the side. West Ham v Sunderland

Meat Haten could be without the Inic What Herr could be without the Injervel La-zarfolls, Ornaciar and Jones. As Dewle has a broken acide. the co-loan Newed I leads the stands and Pode could be recalled to the datence. The Bunderland capitals Bell is sail with a Iraciared Jew. Scoti is recovering from a prior operation, Howey has dam-aged antide ligements and Hall a cell-man-cle strain, so the seeming the Haddinghot-loss. Williams and Hollowey have been destined both the action.

Le Taisier returns to take the place of detaclison who has an artist intury. Liver-ton are hoping Fowler will return after making a match with an ande injury, allowing them to stove Barges back into the midfield at the excesse of Thomas.

Scottish preview

Celtic sign Hannah and have McStay back contesting an option clause of the contract he signed for the

Patrick Glenn

ON THE day that Celtic's manager Tommy Burns bought David Hannah, the former Scotland under-21 midfielder, from Dundee United for £600,000 he revealed that the club captain Paul McStay would return to the first team after four

Negotiations for Hannah, 23, were completed last night. United's chairman Jim direct competitors, but Han-nah is a special case.

second goal in the 2-0 victory over Motherwell on Boxing Day. Now he is likely to make his Celtic debut in

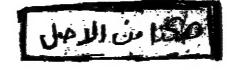
today's home match against

Dunfermline. McStay's absence with an left Celtic seriously deficient The player was bringing a this afternoon prompted a dan Petric court case against United, glowing tribute from Burns.

"Paul's been here so long," Tannadice club as a teenager.

Hannah has been highly rated for some years but his dispute with United has been highly rated for some years but his injury, we've tried to replace him and discovered there's nobody out there we could have bought who is as

Rangers travel to Kilmarnock today without Alan McLaren in central defence. Walter Smith is unwilling to risk him in two matches in ankle injury — coinciding three days for the leaders — with that of Phil O'Donnell, he played against Raith on McLean has always been an with that of Phil O'Donnell, he played against Raith on unwilling seller, especially to who returned last week — has Boxing Day — so soon after his return from a long lay-off. in midfield and his return Joachim Bjorklund and Gordan Petric are available to



on move Flower joins the drivers the drivers to distraction

Paul Allott sees a Zimbabwe batsman show England what they should have done in Harare

babwe for a tedious day's cricket: their atsmen were doing the job that England's top order failed to do.

For England's bowlers on this dead-slow pitch frus-tration was beginning to mount even before the rain. The nightmares may not bave been fuelled by Grant Flower's three-hour 30. feat built on attrition. But there is time even for England to win - and there is heaps of rain about.

When batsmen set out to occupy the crease to the complete exclusion of any run-scoring intent, the bowlers can verge on hallu-cination, imagining bats three feet wide, pads the size of mattresses and stumps resembling matchsticks.

prerequisite (barring declarations) to take 20 wickets in a game to stand a chance of winning and obdurate batting on lifeless pitches has made folk heroes of a series of unlikely individuals in Test and county cricket: Chris Tavare, David Steele, Larry Gomes Alan Bill and even the pres-ent England manager John Barclay.

Remember Tavare's creeping front-foot prod that culminated in perfect defence and thwarted Dennis Lillee and Terry Alder-man in 1981? Tavare was an ideal foil for a swashbackling middle order con-taining David Gower and Ian Botham. He was content to remain scoreless and render a succession of bowlers almost apoplectic

1976 against Australia and West Indies, characterised the buildog spirit by defy-ing the world's quickest fast bowlers almost exclu-sively by playing them off the front foot. His sponsorship consisted of steaks and chops from his local butcher for each run scored. Mad Cow never, but mad batsman perhaps.
When exasperation

finally comes for the bowler it is not the batsman's technique or approach that is mentally baunting. It is the stupid things that get to him short leg after each ball or the fact that he never seemed to trim that un-kempt and ridiculous

It was always Steele's spectacles as he grinned myopically at one from 22 yards, with the sun glinting off the shiny frames. He was probably trying to dazzle the bowlers with reflected sunlight; and in any case no one fights in speciacles.

Gomes used to make one bowl so wide of off stump that one was in danger of hitting gully. One never bowled that wide at anyone else. And as for good old Alan "Bud" Hill of Derby-shire, if his stance did not have one in fits, then his limpet-like performance usually drove one to tears.

Botham can remember only one instance of obdu-rate batting against him. The present England man-ager — Trout to his mates is now adept at straightbatting the media at ques-tion time but he once batted for two sessions against Botham and mustered only 17. As they left the field together at tea Barclay turned to Botham and in his best old Etonian said: "Was I really frightfully boring, Ian?" To which Both retorted: "Boring, yes, Trout, but frightfully isn't the right word."



On guard . . . an unhappy Atherion waits in vain for the



Chain reaction . . . Shivnarine Chanderpaul is caught and bowled by Australia's Glenn McGrath, who finished the day on an impressive five for 40

Australia v West Indies: third Test, second day

McGrath's high five keep Australia alive

Guy Whittall but, if England cannot handle him and the rest of the Zimbabwe pace attack, what chance do they have against Glenn McGrath

Another five-wicket haul, including Brian Lara for the fourth time in the series, shat-tered West Indies' hopes of a decent first-imnings lead. They finished 14 shead with one wicket left and McGrath is within two wickets of matching Shane Warne by reaching a century in his 23rd Test.

in Australia's second Test vic-tory on his home ground in Sydney McGrath relished bowling on an MCG pitch ex-ploited by Curtly Ambrose on

tralia for the quicks". He may for the second day) and not quite have Ambrose's pace but he manages to be just as hostile by hitting the pitch and bowling a relentless line. In contrast to the ageing Ambrose he holds his own in

this marvellous Australian fielding side: a natural athete, McGrath contributed a sharp run-out and a brilliant return catch to dismiss Carl Hooper and Shivnsrine Chanderpaul respectively.

But it is still Lara's wicket which Australia value most highly and McGrath did the

trick again. After dropping below Chanderpaul to No. 4 Lara had his entry delayed

started nervously, taking 13 balls to get off the mark, 11 of them from Warne.

Taylor had already intro-duced McGrath, who greeted around the wicket. Four balls later he found the thick edge of Lara's angled bat and Warne took a simple catch midway between second slip

and gully.

"Brian likes to play his shots and to have room to play them," explained McGrath. "So we like to keep him cramped up and occa-sionally bowl one that little bit wider.'

broke a second-wicket partnership of 52, beating Robert Samuels in the air for Mark Taylor to take a sharp catch. Taylor to take a sharp catch. Short of McGrath at mid-on.

Lara was greeted by a few be called a crasy single and

familiar role, holding the innings together, and as usual battled manfully to reach his third half-century of the

Scoreboard att 62: CEL Ambr

ful minutes he was punished for an uppish on-drive when McGrath stuck out his long left arm and clung to a onehanded catch.

five, still 112 behind, but then Junior Murray joined Jimmy Adams to dominate a sixthwicket stand of 90. The man-ager Clive Lloyd had been con-sidering promoting Murray to open after his 86 as a pinch-hitter set up a one-day win over Pakistan in Adelaide. It would have been a gam-

ble, as Murray's technique ranges from unorthodox to ugly. But he could not have done much worse than Samuof the order would have maintained West Indies' Ambrose-

McGrath took the second new hall and had him caught at fine leg from a top-edged book. Ian Bishop and Ambrose did not last long but Adams trudged on to his 50 in 207 minutes with just two fours

 a boundary tally matched by his ninth-wicket partner Kenny Benjamin in two balls, both from Warne, which in the process gave West Indies Benjamin was out before

the close, the only wicket for Paul Reiffel, who bowled 29 overs after Jason Gillespie match, and probably the series, with a side strain early

With the prospect of facing Warne in the last innings inspired revival. looming large for West Indies.

Instead the batsman's who closed on 233 for nine, fourth Test half-century was the advantage has swung sig-little more than damage liminificantly to Australia.

India rolled over by Donald's pace

fast bowling by Allan Donald gave South Affirst Test against India in Durban yesterday. Spearheading a four-man pace attack he took five for 40 as India were routed in 39.1 overs for 100, their lowest Test total against South Africa.

Donald gave South Africa

a first-innings lead of 135 manding lead of 2 and the opener Andrew into the third day.

second-wicket partnership of 111, enabling the home side to close on 164 for four in their second innings. Hudson (52) batted authoritatively for his second half-century of the match

and Bacher, on his Test debut, made a composed 55 to give South Africa a commanding lead of 299 going

their betsmen always struggled on a pitch offering pace and bounce. Don-ald bowled with hostility for his seventh five-wicket hanl at Test level and was well supported by Shann Pollock and Brian McMillan, who took two wickets

ing up the other.
No Indian batsman

Hudson, who made 80 first | While India had the bettime around, and Adam | ter of the first day, dismiss- missed for the third lowest Bacher built on that with a | ing South Africa for 235, | Test total compiled at Kingsmead after Austra-lia's 75 and South Africa's 99 in the same match of the 1949-50 series

Saurav Ganguly's 16 was the best score but the key wicket was that of India's captain Sachin Tendulkar. From successive deliveries he struck Donald to the boundary, then was bowled

Ice Hockey

Steelers supply

video of incident

SHEFFIELD STEELERS
are to send video evidence

to the Superleague disciplin-

from Thursday's game with the Cardiff Devils which left

their former National Hockey

with a double fracture of a

Hollioake strikes with the ball and salvages with the bat

against Pakistan in the third Under-19 Test in Lahore.

Having taken six for 40 in Pakistan's 287, Hollioake struck an unbeaten 44 as England limped to 167 for seven. Hollioake's day had begun with the vital scalp of Pakistan's skipper Ahmar Saeed for 77. He then mopped up the tail with two wickets in two

SURREY's Ben Hollioake When England batted they overcame the early loss of Pevalue as England faltered ters (9) and Sales (16) to reach 105 for two before Tahir removed Batty, lbw for 32, and Nash, bowled for a duck. After Flintoff (30) and Read (14) had departed, it was left to Hollicake and Morris to try to survive the last four overs. They almost made it but Razzaq, swinging the ball considerably, bowled Morris for nought in the last over to put England into deeper trouble.

Sailing

Whale of a time after Buster blows out

Bob Fisher in Hobert

4.25

100

HE Southerly Buster which hit the Sydney-Hobart fleet and wrought havoc with some of the leaders, moderated as darkness fell on the first

of about 100 pilot whales and and 12 hours later the of a number of large humpback whales who joined the race Exile had picked

night at sea, leaving the competitors gasping for a fresh breath of wind.

The breeze went into the east and was as fractious as an alling infant, treating the services freeze to be fightened as a service of the fleet, 7½ miles ahead of the fleet,

almost lottery-like conditions. | rater had, however, taken her | to go faster and Exile's sien-Another of Mother Nature's | course more to the west of | der lead was threatened. | Fair designed 45-footer was little jokes came in the form | Warwick Miller's 68-footer | "They are under spinnaker maid of George Gjergja and and 12 hours later the order at

a number of large humpback whales who joined the race leaders, forcing a number of yachts to take evasive action to avoid collision.

The giant 80ft Morning Graeme Freeman, urged compared to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew, led to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew, led to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew, agreement the tricky conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second conditions and the tricky conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions her highly competent crew agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions agreement to the tricky conditions agreement to a second condition to the tricky conditions agreement to the tricky conditi

"They are under spinnaker and you'd expect the larger Morning Glory to overhaul Exile by tomorrow morning. unless something went radi-cally wrong," said the race spokesman Peter Campbell. The 68ft Foxtel Amazon was five miles behind in third

maid of George Gjergja and these two hold a slight edge on the Murray designed 41-footer Terra Firma, of Scott Carlisle

cap winner last year.
Leading the cruiser division, on the Performance Bright Morning Star, owned and skippered by Hugh Treplace with Iain Murray and the 60st Sydney fourth. Leading the fleet on IMS handicap harne, the tactician of Austrawas Ray Roberts's Coral 45, lia II when she won the America's Cup.

"All I know at the moment is that a player was injured," said the disciplinary chairman Prank Dempster yesterday, "But I've made arrangements to view the tape and an investigation will take place if I feel the incident is serious enough to warrant it." McShane tops bill in Hastings end-of-pier show

Leach's injury — which could keep him out for three to six weeks — occurred in the 54th minute of the Steelers' 8-2 home defeat. The allegation is that the damage was caused by the stick of the Devils' defencemen and Great Britain captain Shannon Hope, who was dismissed from the game by the referee Andy Carson with a five-minute major penalty and a game misconduct for high sticks. Hope maintains it was an

The flash point occurred near the Sheffield team bench and several of their players leapt on to the ice to remon strate with Hope. Among the angry Steelers was Tim Cran-ston, who was penalised by ute penalties for leaving the

Rugby League

Challenge crowd proves shot in the arm for Leeds Rhinos

Paul Fitzpatrick

have a sound spectator-base which we intend to develop THE crowd of 13,600 for Leeds Rhinos' Challenge match with Halifax Blue Sox on Boxing Day was massively heartening, despite their 14-6 defeat, for a club whose aver-age attendances fell by more than 3,000 during the first Super League season.

At Wigan, too, the crowd of 16,199 for the game with St Helens was well above expecsence of a number of star performers from both clubs, the on New Year's Day. contest proved competitive enough to ensure the success of next week's second leg showdown at Knowsley Road. The crowd at Leeds was all

the more remarkable for there being no public trans-port running in the city. "The port running in the city. "The attendance certainly justified our decision to stage the fixture," said Gary Hethering ture," said Gary Hethering the club's chief executive David Howes believes that is well within their "The people of Leeds

game of rugby league in the lost by 15 points at Central city. We can now look forward to Super League, confident to Super League to Super League

over the coming months. that a pre-season friendly with Sheffield Eagles - who were previously under the control of Hetherington — on Sunday, January 19, will gen-erate even half the interest of

the Boxing Day match. St Helens expect to have their outstanding half-backs Bobbie Goulding and Karle Hammond available again for the second match with Wigan

Hammond had to withdraw from Thursday's contest because of a family bereavement while Goulding, the Great Britain scrum-half, was forced to stand down with a

back injury.

capabilities.
"We won last season's proved once again just how league clash at Knowsley much support there is for the Road by 16 points and then

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BOOK TICKETS NOW

ing, was started last year as a the competitors were British.

But Hastings' history as a legal near annually since through three different municipal administrations but property-dealing rather than spokeswoman and property-dealing rather than spokeswoman. low-key event when almost all

Championship.

ASTINGS, the longost- | World Amateur into an event for 15 nations, including Georgia, Uganda and, for the running congress in the international calendar, first time in any British touropens at the Cinque Ports Hotel today amid growing innament, Japan. China will make a Hastings debut when terest in its newest tourna-Xie Jup, the women's world ment, the World Amateur champion for eight years until last spring, plays in the The tournament, open to anyone without an International Chess Federation rat-

a starring role for amateurs and a 12-year-old

Premier.
The town, whose chess club is open every day, held its first congress in 1895 and it has been held annually since

Leonard Barden on the old congress with 1880s, the financier Jim Slater lem soon. The congress is and a merchant bank spon-sored an expansion to belp the Premier and its 10 Grand-

> who twice won the Premier, challenged for Kasparov's world title. Now the outside sponsors have gone and the Hastings corporation, which financed the pre-1989 events,

in again the major backet of the tune of \$30,000.

This support has survived next year as there are no through three different municipal administrations but Pam Thomas, the congress's Grandmasters headed by a

rnat investment paid off
when Britain improved from
also-rans to silver medallists
behind the Russians at the
Olympics, while Nigel Short,
who twice won the Premier

Now the pier is for sale, however, and one of the bid-ders is a leisure group who may decide that fruit ma-chines or roulette wheels are is again the major backer to more profitable than chess.
The tune of £30,000.

We hope we can stay here

aged 25 and ranked 15th in the world, is top seed and favour-ite to win the Premier, despite the anticipated strong opposition from Xie Jun and from a new Armenian talent. the 18-year-old Sergel Many spectators will brave

pier to see Luke McShane, at the age of 12 Britain's most promising junior since Short. McShane can move closer to becoming the UK's youngest-ever International Master if



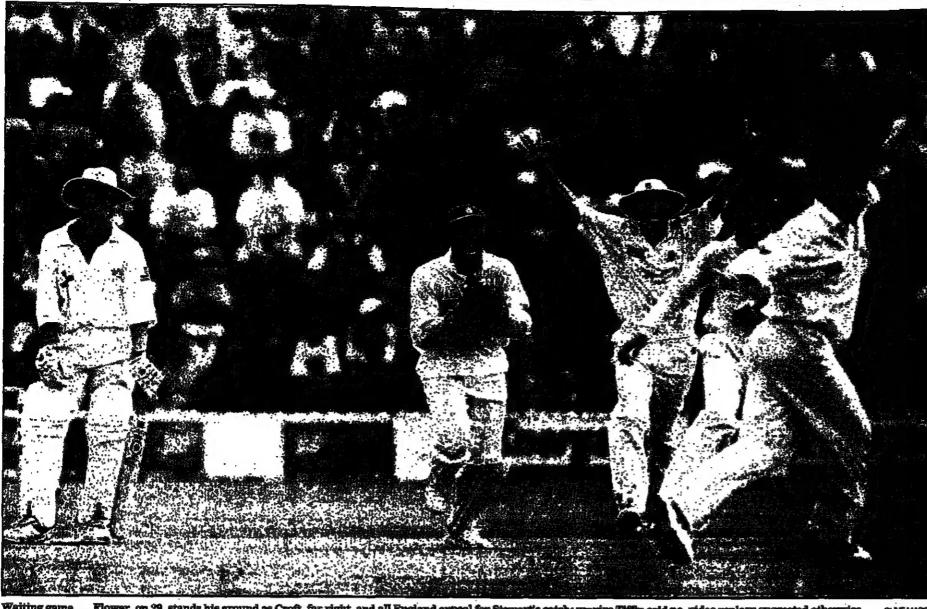
Brown runs into Africa Briton takes on the best for a Durham crown



Manager's mission Can Pearce get Forest out of the woods?

The Guardian

TEST CRICKET



game . . . Flower, on 29, stands his ground as Croft, far right, and all England appeal for Stewart's catch; unpure Tiffin said no, video replays suggested otherwise

Zimbabwe v England: second Test, second day

Flower grinds England

David Hopps in Harare on a day when Zimbabwe were dogged, bowlers were frustrated and play was mercifully truncated

belief that Grant Flower was playing an imshowing just the sort of, yawn, shm, discipline that England's batsmen had

Sorry, dropped off again there. Must give credit where it's due. Just the sort of discihave lacked during their collapse on the first day of the placed dependability above player, and the achievement of the team ahead of individual satisfaction.

An innings that made no concessions: not to the crowd, not to Flower's own frailties and certainly not to an Eng-land team forced to withstand 3½ hours of dripping torture.
Three and a quarter hours for an unbeaten 33! Three and a quarter hours of admirable during which the changing cloud formations over Harare Sports Club were dramatic by

By the time that heavy rain

two in 48 overs, only 63 behind England's first-in-nings total. At this rate he will reach his century early on Sunday morning and, if he does, Zimbabwe will have visions of their first series vic-

The embarrassment for ingland, if that occurs, ne little underlining, especially as they voted against Zimbabwe's application. Losing to the weakest Test nation is no way to prepare for next

ory since Test status.

Flower played a monumen-tal role in Zimbabwe's only victory in 22 Tests. His unbeaten 201 against Pakistan on this ground two years ago engineered a win by an innings and 64 runs amid alle-gations of match-rigging against Pakistan's captain Salim Malik

If there is one asset that shines from Flower at the crease it is his honesty. Honesty of stroke and honesty of purpose. He has a puritanical look that hints at unfathomed patience and his only concesforced the abandonment of ish at the end of his forward

England will swear that they should already be rid of him, and the Sky TV replays, complete with zoom in pic tures, support their contention. On 28, Flower dallied with a leg glance against Croft and was caught down the leg side by Stewart, but

Scoreboard

Norge. lowflags Mulicity 12-3-22-1; Gough 1-5-13-0; Croft 8-0-23-0; White

umpire Tiffin was unmoved.
Three strokes remain in the as Mullally, Gough and White managed two wickets; Mullally cough to adapt, and match leg-side hits in quick successions, all three are natural around the wicket to deceive HOSE who stayed the second day, four balls into defensive stroke, like a thin ston. If that was an unextopass judgment chaperoned Zimbabwe to 33 wise undecorated Christmas nothing compared to the sight much later of Flower striding down the pitch to lift Tufnell one bounce into the long-off

advertising hoardings. Suitably the ball fell near a spectator in a John Major mask, whose expression suggested that the day was all extremely rewarding. At least it the real John Major, Flower can expect a last-minute entry in the New Year Honours

today before he can think in terms of world records. Trevor Bailey, compiler of the slowest Teet half-century, virtually six hours in Brisbane in 1958, was here yesterday. One of his duties was as a tour host, and there was no more appropriate witness.

Balley was barracked in
Brisbane but Flower proceeded in virtual silence. mories of England's selfdestruction on the first day entirely vindicated his approach on a sluggish, holding pitch on which anything more ambitious than a furtive

Gough, indeed, volunteered the view after bowling out Matabeleland earlier in the tour that he was "not a line-and-length bowler". Considering that admission, he stuck at it fairly well. Silverwood, who might have elished such conditions, has been dropped for the insurance of an extra batsman - this England's coach David Lloyd murdered, steam-rollered and

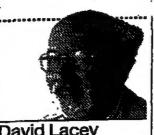
ral hit-the-pitch bowlers.

hammered Zimbabwe in the drawn Test in Bulawayo. Older English spectators wondered how this old-fash-ioned surface would have suited the likes of Brian Statham, Tom Cartwright Don Shepherd and Derek Shackleton. Others considered the present county contingent and proposed unlikely names such as Tim Munion Peter Hartley, Steve Watkin and even Ian Austin. What was clear is that four-day

preparation for this. Earlier England added 19 to their overnight 137 for nine, Tufnell off bat and stomach to rod is a high-risk stroke. leave Crawley, who had England's attack is not resisted for 220 minutes,

cricket on flat pitches is little

The save, the miss and all that money



David Lacey

ESTERDAY's showsary of the severe winter of 1947, when English football en joyed an unscheduled midseason break of such generos-ity that the championship was not settled until the first week

Those looking for historical portents might note that Liverpool eventually won the title, finishing a point ahead of Manchester United. On the other hand Manchester City won promotion that year, so history may be bunk after all. The return to a normal

league programme after the war produced an aggregate at endance figure for the 1946-4 season of 35.6 million — 14.2 million more than last sea-

son's total in the Premier and Endsleigh leagues.
Yet the game surely has a much wider appeal than it did in those male-oriented days, when television coverage was confined to the FA Cup final. BSkyB may show live matches to a relatively small and excluwhich will enable fans to watch their teams in away games at a fraction of the pres ent cost, is almost here.

Money will continue to dominate football during the coming year. There will soon have been enough share flota-tions for a Spithead review. The leading players are earning more than ever. England has replaced France as an Eldorado for footballers

In 1946-47 Middlesbrough's Wilf Mannion was given a 33 per cent rise to the giddy heights of £12 a week. Fifty vears later Fabrizio Ravanelli is earning an additional 239,968, and Boro still cannot raise a team to play at

tle more to tempt Flower into indiscretion. Tempt Flower? He would have had no luck if he had donned a pair of dev-Happily cash no more guarantees success now than it did then. Paying £15 million for Alan Shearer looks like doing as much for Newcastle's title pretensions as the arrival of Billy Steel, for a then record fee of £15,000, did for Derby County during the 1947

The nation is now shockproof regarding transfers. Even if the coming year sec the first £20 million fee the event will hardly be greeted with the astonishment that accompanied Tommy Lawton's £20,000 move from Chelsea to Notts County, then in the old Third Division (South), in

lovember 1947. Lawton's recent death recalled a time when the Engand football team were unbeatable at home and rarely lost abroad. In the spring of 1947, to mark the return of the four British associations to Fifa, Great Britain played the Rest of Europe in front of a crowd of 140,000 at Hampden

Park and won 6-1. Last summer the rejoicing which greeted the appearance of Terry Venables' side in the semi-finals of the European Championship showed how modest our international expectations had become. Still, England managed to

produce the most vivid and dramatic images of the last 12 months: Seaman's save from McAllister in the Scotland game, the supreme moment of individualism from Gascoigne which immediately fol-lowed it, the fusillade of goals against Holland, and Southgate's Calvary in the penalty shoot-out with Germany.

could hardly have done better than win his first three World Cup qualifiers but Italy will be a truer test of his credentials as national coach. At least Hoddle's England are slightly better organised than they were 50 years ago, when Charles Buchan bemoaned the team's lack of a kit-man. Every club is scared of an epidemic like influenza, ec through the camp," he wrote. Hopes for 1997? That no-

body does the Double, which is starting to come up with the rations, that Brighton find a way out from underneath the Archer, and that England not only qualify for the 1998 World Cup but are grouped with Australia.

Glenn against Tel, preacherman versus swagman: what a delicious thought

Paul Alfott, page 23

Campbell into cutting a short-

ish delivery to first alip.

But the day belonged to

Flower. Even with such a small total to defend, there

were suggestions that Ather-

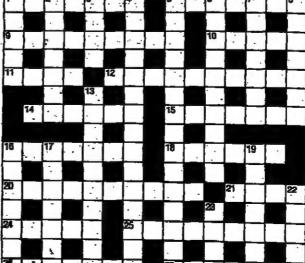
ton might have attacked a lit-

Guardian COLLINS

Crossword 20,846

A copy of the Collins Collins Roget's International Thesaurus will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,836, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday December 30.

Address



Set by Pasquale Across

1 Tomotheran insectisa 5 Little girl faces the bowling comes back hurt (7)

9 Be more than senseless when planed by arrow shot? (9) 10 See 11 11,10 What may doubly help the

stressed and hard-up teacher? (4,5) 12 One may take exceptional

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possibly (10) 14 Man caught by England player (Bill or John?), last out (6) 15 Staying behind, phony giant gee-gee is getting in (7)

care to secure politician gain

16 Conservative Society about to present one with disdainful attitude (7)

18 Girl is English, upper class and pleasant (6) 20 Finicky with detail (10)

Germany, Nord Edek, 16/21 rue du Caim, 9P69 - 59052 Roubek, Cadex 1, France, for and on behalf of the Guerdan and Manchester Everage News PLC, 46,748, Seturdey, December 28, 1996.

21 Bee line made for hilltop (4)

24 Proposition learner's found at front of book (5) 25 A welcome with fellows in concord (9) 26 After accident tankers may be most noxious (7) 27 Sea creature pitches on land in the absence of rain (7)

Down 1 Cook's accomplice again wants extra egg (5) 2 Variety of items as shown by

3 Paper round is taken up as a duty (4)

with humanitarian legi (6,6,3) 5 Use one's last resources to get gunge out of rifle? (6,3,6)

6 Checking blood flow that's severe (10) 7 Polish upset having a foreign princess in the country (7)

8 Oneshut up in a boring jobhelps with the washing up (7) 13 Extravagant chatter about golf i played (10)

16 Distributor unable to accommodate one should be more flexible (7)

17 One in boat moans terribly about a river (7)

19 Present-day split initiated by contemptible type (7)

22 Rebel ruler of Britain sinking in the sea? (5) 23 A four-letter word you may come across with bovver boys (4)

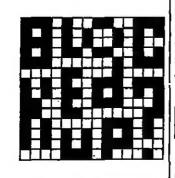
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Lacroix rings in the new with Quins

Robert Armstrong

ARLEQUINS have strengthened their French connection with the surprise acquisition of the 29-year-old Test fly-half Thierry Lacroix.





agreed a deal worth around £250,000 over 2% years, will join his international team-mates Laurent Cabannes and Laurent Bene zech at The Stoop.

Lacroix is expected to nake his Courage League London derby against Wasps at Loftus Road. An accomplished playmaker. the Frenchman topped last year's World Cup scoring list with 116 points, which helped propel France into the semi-finals. Since mak- rector of rugby, has had La- More rugby, page 20

38 games for his country. The signing of Lacroix is cism of Harlequins' trans-fer policy, which in this instance will probably squeeze out the England A

fly-half Paul Challinor. Lacroix could also play at centre after Gary Connolly month, and his success as a goalkicker should mean the end of Will Carling's experiment in that department.

Dick Best, the Quins di-

The former Dax and ing his Test debut in 1989 | croix in his sights since last Natal goalkicker, who has be has scored 367 points in spring but the player's Currie Cup commitments with Natal ruled out an early Best explained: "We are

prod is a high-risk stroke.

losing Robbie Paul and Gary Connolly to their will fill one of the gaps be-cause he can play at centre or stand-off. He is a worldclass goalkicker and another vital piece in our figsaw which is not yet



Lacroix ... French dressing



"We looked at ourselves and realised that we were suddenly no longer ice cream men. We'd become businessmen. We were, you know, writing memos and correspondence," says Jerry, looking horrified by the memory.

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